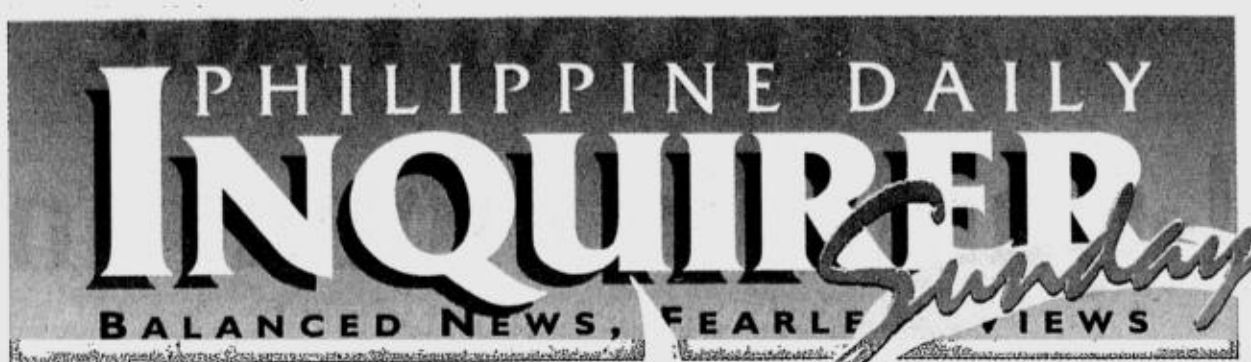


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TODAY IN THE INQUIRER

- **Taking Dominic Ochoa seriously**
- **Rose Hancock Porteous' outrageous fortune**



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SUMMIT OF FINE-FEATHERED FRIENDS

On the brightest, safest side of Mindanao where the sand is blinding white and the Pacific Ocean is infinitely blue, there is the protected bird sanctuary named Naked Island in Siargao, Surigao del Norte.

JOAN BONDOC

'Insecure, inept, paranoid'

Troops kill Pentagon leader, 2 followers

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—A leader of the notorious Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group and two of his followers were killed after they clashed with government troops in Maguindanao early yesterday.

The Pentagon, which maintains jungle bases in certain parts of Mindanao, has been held responsible for the kidnapping of several foreigners last year, reportedly receiving ransom for their release. It is on Washington's list of terrorist organizations.

Kabilo Sagulle, alias Commander Mayagcang, and his men resisted arrest during a joint police and military operation in Barangay Dungguan in

TROOPS/A16

Gloria fighting phantoms of destabilization—Angara

By Cynthia D. Balana, Juliet L. Javellana and Dona Pazzibugan

THE administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo is insecure and inept, and the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) does not want to be a party to its growing paranoia.

Sen. Edgardo Angara made this statement yesterday to further explain the LDP's boycott of the ongoing political

summit as Malacañang challenged the party to act as a genuine and responsible opposition.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said Malacañang welcomed the LDP's decision to withdraw its critical collaboration with the administration if it is organizing itself as a "responsible and constructive opposition."

At the summit itself, the political parties recommended that the 1987 Constitution be amended, but any amendment should not affect the 2004

elections. And it was left to Congress to decide the final details on how the Constitution should be amended.

The LDP earlier announced it has resumed an adversarial attitude toward Malacañang because of what it described as a government plan to implicate opposition leaders, including Angara, to any violent incident occurring on May 1.

At the same time, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, chair of PDP-Laban, clarified his party's deci-

sion to join the boycott, saying the action was not a declaration of war against the President but merely an assertion of his party's independence.

"We are just being prudent in that we do not wish our identity to be subsumed by the party in power," Pimentel said.

He said it was the majority senators in the Senate who have declared war against opposition senators.

In a talk with newsmen, Angara said

INSECURE/A16

CHILDREN'S STORY

The fireflies keep hoping, glowing

By Dee Batnag-Ayrosa
Contributor

(Editor's Note: The author is a writer of children's stories. She wrote this story for her children Layad, 6, and Alab, 2, for them to keep believing their father, Honorio Ayrosa, will be home soon. A former political detainee, he was abducted in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, last February.)

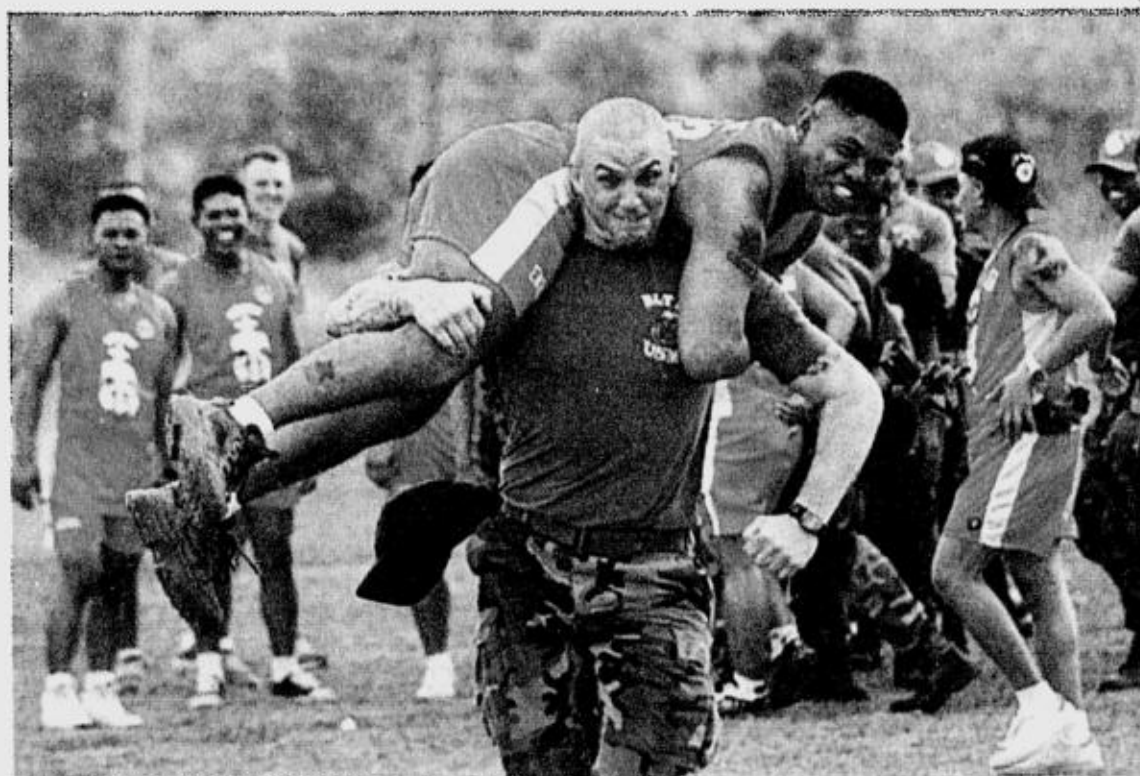
THERE once was a family of fireflies who lived on a branch of a citrus tree. They were Honor Firefly, the father, Dee, the mother, and their children Layad and Alab. Honor, the father, had the brightest glow.

One night, Honor wandered off from the citrus tree.

"Where is father?" Layad and Alab asked. They looked and looked around the tree but couldn't find him.

They asked a group of frogs who were sitting under a rock at the bottom of the tree.

"We didn't eat him, we haven't seen him," they chorused.



DENNIS SABANGAN

WHITE MAN'S BURDEN

Let the games begin as the US-RP Balikatan 02-2 in Central Luzon calls it a day with a fireman's relay in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, where a US Marine backpacks his Filipino counterpart.

THE/A16

Shattered vows: Musings of a married priest

By Rev. Tax B. Rosaldo
Contributor

(Editors Note: The author is president of the Leyte-Samar Married Priests, and member of the national council of the Philippine Federation of Married Catholic Priests Inc. He writes for various newspapers in the Eastern Visayas and has been awarded the "Gawad Kalinangan Journalism Award" by the Rotary Club of Manila and the UP College of Mass Communication Founda-

tion Inc.)

FOR having left the celibate and clerical priesthood and embracing the married state, I was marginalized, treated as a non-person and a sinner whose infraction was considered unforgivable by the Roman Catholic Church.

A bishop called me "Judas." My former brothers in the clergy referred to me as "ex-priest" or "former priest."

These are words that are not to be found in biblical or theological dictio-

naries or in the canon law itself but fabricated by the institutional church to demoralize me or any married priest similarly situated.

One nun told me flatly: "Don't talk to me for I won't follow you to hell."

Another bishop wrote to me, saying I should refrain from saying Mass because I was "confusing the people."

I chose not to be cowed by this unchristian attitude. First of all, the aroma of holy oil in my palms during my sacerdotal ordination is as fresh as

ever. No one can unmake a validly ordained priest. Once ordained a priest, one can never be an "unpriest."

Secondly, in my conscience and as a person, I believe and am convinced that marrying the wonderful woman who is now my wife was one of the best decisions of my life.

The sacraments of matrimony and the priesthood are not exclusive insofar as biblical theology is concerned. In fact, my being married is not a hin-

SHATTERED/A17



Covering war: Don't shoot the messenger

By Christine Herrera

INCIDENTS of "shooting the messenger" are on the rise as more journalists from different countries cover the war against terrorism.

Today, the journalist's pen can't be mightier than the bombs unless he's equipped with survival gear like an Afghan Explorer, a helmet and a bullet-proof vest.

COVERING/A16

Second FRONT PAGE



MILF, al-Qaida link found in Luzon

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The al-Qaida terror network of international fugitive Osama bin Laden has developed "several cells" in Luzon with "outstanding links" to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, police here said.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police chief, and Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, Ilocos region police chief, made the revelation Saturday as they presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo here nine suspected terrorists arrested in separate operations since May 1.

Berroya and Lomibao showed

another leader, Abdul Nasser Nooh, had "outstanding links" with Fathur al Ghoozi, the self-confessed Indonesian terrorist who admitted participation in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings around Metro Manila.

Reconstructed

Aleem Mimbantas and Abdul Aziz, identified as being with the Moro Islamic Security Force, and Yusof Alongan, described as an MILF financial officer, were alleged members of this network, the police said.

Berroya said the chart was constructed based on information obtained from the nine suspects and on documents seized during operations against suspected terrorists in Tarlac and Pangasinan since May 1.

in other parts of Luzon."

He did not elaborate.

He said the PNP "unmasked a well-organized and highly compartmentalized terrorist network in Region III (Central Luzon) and its environs" after the killing of Khalid Trinidad and the capture of Dexter Mayuno in Barangay San Nicolas in Tarlac City on May 1.

Trinidad and Mayuno were alleged terrorists out to sow "mayhem" in Tarlac City on Labor Day.

Documents seized from the two led police to the Islamic Educational Center (Madrasah) in Barangay Anda, Pangasinan, that was run allegedly by Ahmad Santos.

9 suspects

The raid on the school yielded three firearms, six rifle grenades, five fragmentation grenades, one base radio, one detonating cord, assorted ammunition, binoculars and combat uniforms.

The report identified those arrested at the school as Dawud Muslim del Rosario Santos, Ahmad's brother; Pio Abogne de Vera, alias Ismael de Vera; Redendo Cain Dellosa, alias Habil Akmad Dellosa; Marvelo Cenal Egil,

Allan Hakim Borlagdatan and Angelito Trinidad Aris.

Arrested earlier in Tarlac were Mayuno, Feliciano de los Reyes and Niño Carifio.

Trinidad was slain when he reportedly tried to shoot it out with authorities.

Charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives were being readied against them, the report said.

Based on documents seized in the Pangasinan operation, police located a "terrorist training base" in Dueg and Babaelan, Barangay Maasin, San Clemente town in Tarlac.

'Cells dismantled'

Police raided this camp on May 3 and recovered two M-14 rifles, an M-16 rifle, an air gun, five rifle grenades, a Russian-made night vision telescope, a mini-component language master, a compass, three mobile phones, two plastic bags of ammonium nitrate and plenty of ammunition.

Berroya and Lomibao said the arrest of the nine and the raids on the two camps "dismantled the cells."

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Army's Northern Luzon command, said terrorists might have fielded "sleepers" in Luzon but there were "no overt manifesta-

tions" of their operations.

He said, however, sleepers could use the Muslim communities in Luzon as their safe havens or recruitment bases.

Berroya said the two captured cells were also responsible for the circulation of a spurious letter purportedly written by President Macapagal to US President George W. Bush.

Before leaving the Camp Olivas annex here, the President congratulated the PNP and the Army for busting the two suspected terrorist cells.

Another police report, this one from Region IV, said Ahmad Santos had links to the al-Qaida network.

The same report said Santos had trained with the MILF in Camp Bushra in Mindanao from December 2001 to January this year.

Kabalu statement

Santos was not around when operatives from the anti-terrorist Task Force Sanlahi and the Pangasinan police swooped down on his school at around 11 p.m. on Thursday.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said he was interviewed once by a radio reporter named Akmad Santos, but he could not say if this was the same man being hunted by the police.

Kabalu also could not say if

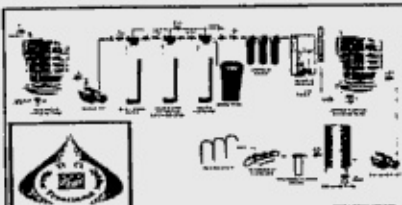
Santos had undergone training at Camp Bushra, but admitted that the camp was always open to media men.

The intelligence official said they were also confirming reports the Islamic school was financed by al-Qaida. "Where else would they get the funding?" he said. With TJ Burgonio

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Another aide confirms GMA will run

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DESPITE her repeated denials, another top aide has confirmed that President Macapagal-Arroyo will stand for election in 2004.

Joey Rufino, the President's adviser on political affairs and executive director of the Lakas party, said Ms Macapagal would be their "champion" against whomever the opposition would field in the presidential polls two years from now.

"If they have a champion, the administration also has a champion, and that is the President. So we shall see in 2004," Rufino said in a radio interview yesterday.

Presidential adviser on special concerns Norberto Gonzales was the first Macapagal aide to confirm her election plans.

Gonzales had said backers of the President were moving to consolidate support for her among traditional political parties and mass-based civic groups.

The President, as expected, denied Gonzales' statement and publicly berated him for speaking on her behalf.

Rufino, however, seemed unconcerned about the President's reaction to his statements.

He said 2004 would be the "test" for the President. "She really has to pass through an election and 2004 will be the test," Rufino said, alluding to the

fact that Ms Macapagal was not elected but took over from President Joseph Estrada who was deposed.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino president, had said the opposition would oust Ms Macapagal, not through a power grab, but through elections.

Rufino said they welcome Angara's challenge.

"As Angara said, we shall know in 2004. We are in a democracy. We have the ballot... so we shall see in 2004," he said.

Malacañang, for its part, did not seem to mind that certain Cabinet members were "electioneering" this early.

"As far as the President is concerned, she doesn't consider this politicking. I don't think it's fair to give it a political flavor at this time," said acting

Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr.

Afable was reacting to observations that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez's nationwide "Dial-a-friend" (521-NANI) program offering legal assistance was nothing but a convenient means to prop up Perez's senatorial bid in 2004.

Another Palace official, who asked not to be named, said that most of the members of the Cabinet will run for office in 2004.

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Senators score Napocor for raising blackout bogey

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWO opposition senators yesterday accused the state-owned National Power Corp. of scaring consumers with the specter of 10-hour blackouts in order to quiet the mounting clamor for lower electricity rates.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said Napocor must recommend concrete ways to reduce the Power Purchase Adjustment (PPA) component in electric bills, which is the focus of consumers' complaints, instead of issuing dire warnings.

"That warning of 10-hour blackouts is silly," Pimentel said.

"I think Napocor officials should listen to the grievances of the people. How could they justify the fact that Juan de la Cruz is paying a bigger amount in PPA than for the actual electricity he consumed?" Pimentel said.

The PPA is the excess cost of electricity purchased from power producers like Napocor by distributors like the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) that is passed on to consumers. The

charge is often higher than the actual cost of electricity consumed by end-users.

Pimentel said Napocor officials must work to reduce the PPA by renegotiating the terms of what he called "lopsided" power contracts with distributors.

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta said the threat of long blackouts smacks of blackmail and was meant to scare the public anew.

Oreta said Napocor merely passed on to consumers the excessive stranded costs of its power purchases from other independent power producers (IPP).

Oreta said the "take-or-pay" provision in IPP contracts was among onerous provisions that should be reviewed and renegotiated in order to pull down the high power rates.

"It takes no financial genius to see that Napocor itself and consumers are at the losing end of these one-sided IPP contracts," Oreta said.

"Unfortunately for us consumers, the team headed by Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho has yet to complete a review of these onerous IPP contracts," she added.

Earlier, Oreta had said Malacañang's plan to restructure the PPA would not ease the plight of electricity consumers but would merely postpone their financial woes.

She said the PPA refinancing strategy showed the administration did not want the charge reduced, but merely delayed to a later date.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Sunday, May 5, 2002

6th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Philip went down to a town of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. All the people paid close attention to what Philip said as they listened to him and saw the miraculous signs, which he did. For in cases of possession, the unclean spirits came out shrieking loudly. Many people who were paralyzed or crippled were healed. So there was great joy in that town.

Now, when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the Samaritans had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. They went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not as yet come down upon any of them since they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. So Peter and John laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

2nd Reading: 1 P 3:15-18

Dear brothers and sisters, bless the Lord Christ in your hearts. Always have an answer ready when you are called upon to account for your hope, but give it simply and with respect. Keep your conscience clear so that those who slander you may be put to shame by your upright, Christian living. Better to suffer for doing good, if it is God's will, than for doing wrong.

Remember how Christ died, once and for all, for our sins. He, the just one, died for the unjust in order to lead us to God. He died as humans do, but was raised to life by the Spirit.

Gospel: Jn 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments; and I will ask the Father and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, that Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him for he is with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans, I am coming to you. A little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me because I live and you will also live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you.

Whoever keeps my commandments is the one who loves me. If he loves me, he will also be loved by my Father; I too shall love him and show myself clearly to him."

Commentary

The liturgy is turning our thoughts to the coming of the Holy Spirit, who is Christ's way of being present to each of us at all times. In the reading from Acts we see how the Spirit works, building bridges, teaching us to say, "we" rather than "them." Jesus had told the apostles not to enter any Samaritan town. Now the Spirit is widening their horizons and building them into one community with the Samaritans. The Spirit leads us where we never expected to be taken. In the past, missionaries thought that it was they who brought the Holy Spirit when they evangelized and baptized. But mission is also following the Spirit, who went ahead of us long ago and is waiting there to welcome and surprise us.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES



REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Venue—Referring to the place where a civil action must be tried, venue, unlike jurisdiction which is conferred by law, essentially concerns a rule of procedure which looks primarily at the convenience of the litigants. A plaintiff impliedly elects venue by choosing the court where he files his complaint. Venue can even be the subject of agreement by the parties. Under Section 4, Rule 4 of the old rules, such an agreement to venue may be impliedly made by the defendant when he fails to seasonably object to it. While the present 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, particularly Section 1, Rule 9, thereof, does not contain provisions similar to Sections 3 and 4 of the old rules, the deletion, however, cannot be taken to mean that objection to venue may now be raised at any time but that, rather, an objection to venue may still be made in an answer if no motion to dismiss is filed. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Gumabon v. Larin, G. R. No. 142523, November 27, 2001]

Digest by R. B. Vera

Block OFWs' executions, DFA urged

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Loren Legarda has urged the Department of Foreign Affairs to stave off the execution of 33 overseas Filipino workers in at least six countries.

At the same time, Sen. Blas Ople has called for a bigger protective network for OFWs.

Ople said long-term protection for OFWs must be established by strengthening the institutions that serve them.

In a statement, Legarda said: "Shall we wait until they (OFWs) are falling like dominoes before moving to stave off their executions? We should act now."

Legarda said she was not happy with Migrant Workers' Affairs Executive Director Rowena Sanchez's statement that there was no cause for alarm since the Filipinos' cases were still pending.

According to the DFA, 24 of the 33 OFWs are facing possible execution in Saudi Arabia—15 in Riyadh and nine in Jeddah.

Three each are facing the death penalty in Libya and the United Arab Emirates, while one

OFW each faces execution in the United States, Bahrain and China.

Legarda said DFA and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration representatives should be present at each Filipino's trial to show that the country is interested in seeing that they get justice in their host countries.

"OFWs contribute to nation-building by earning money the hard way—away from their families and in difficult working conditions. We should not forget them in their hour of need," she said.

Ople said the government must consider elevating the status of the Owwa to an authority to enable it to strengthen and expand its programs for expatriate labor.

It was Ople, then labor minister, who created the Owwa in the '70s to help implement the country's overseas employment program.

According to Ople, upgrading the Owwa would enable it to cope with numerous challenges, such as checks on its effectiveness, the localization of foreign jobs, and the need to expand the welfare fund, for better health

care, and to improve and create new and necessary programs.

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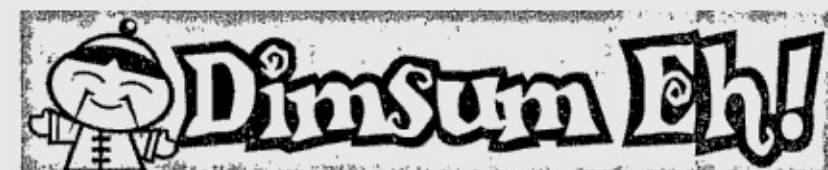
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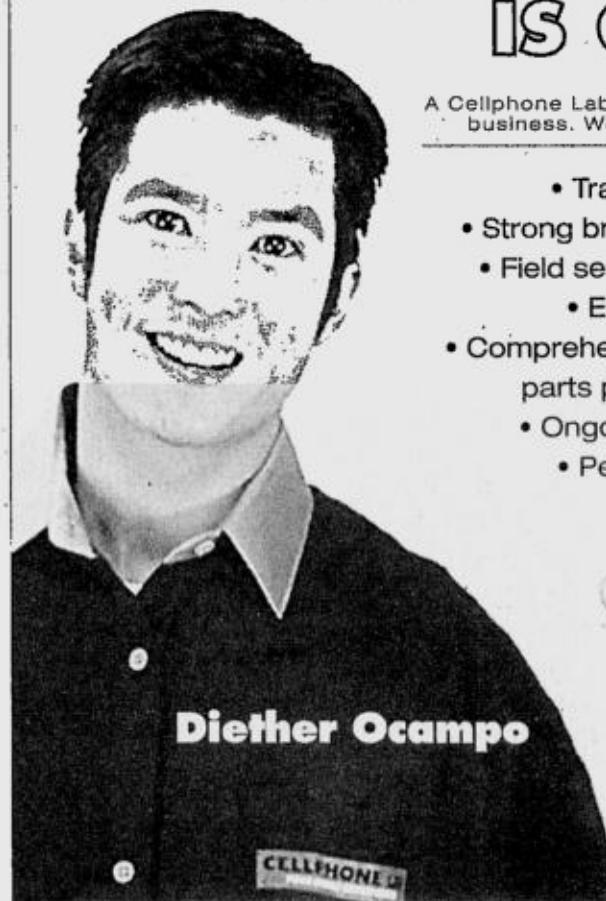


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Angara's agenda

THE LAST thing the country needs is a lecture on the alleged politics of repression from Sen. Edgardo Angara, but that's exactly what the country got last Tuesday. In an "emergency" press briefing at the Senate, Angara claimed to have received an "intelligence report" from "a reliable and unimpeachable" source that he said would tag him and Sen. Panfilo Lacson as lead plotters in case Labor Day protests turned violent.

EDITORIALS "I am denouncing (this attempt) before they can take action against us," he said, in his best imitation of a politician facing imminent martyrdom.

Two days later, explaining why the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino he heads chose to boycott the first-ever national political summit, he said: "We cannot pretend that everything is normal in the political environment while the administration is routinely violating the basic rights of peaceful assembly and intimidating the political opposition," he added.

Stirring words—especially if they had been said during the dark days of the Marcos dictatorship. Then, political repression was all too real and constant. But at that time Angara was busy building an enormously successful career in law and education, so perhaps it is unrealistic now to have expected him then to lend his voice to the small chorus of protest. But his words last week also ring hollow because of a basic flaw in logic. He has, to use the phrase made famous by his opposition colleague Juan Ponce Enrile, failed to "lay the predicate." Is there really such an intelligence report, or such an unimpeachable source? His allegations against the administration make sense only if he proves that there really was such a plan to set him up, to take the fall, as it were, for any Labor Day violence. But instead of furnishing proof (the burden lies with him, not on those he has accused), he has blithely assumed that the public would merely take his word for it.

We hope he has not been lulled by his current net trust rating, as measured by Pulse Asia, into thinking that his statements no longer need to be coherent to make sense.

There is a third reason why Filipinos with a long memory think Angara last Tuesday was merely striking a pose (perhaps to get out of a summit he had as co-chair helped shape to a great extent). And that is because he is obviously miscast in the role, like an inept choice by the casting department of a political movie.

"Why would anyone want to arrest Senator Angara?" asked Sen. Joker Arroyo, quite sensibly. "Yes, he is good at writing diaries, but creating violence or being a revolutionary? No, he certainly cannot hurt a fly, even if he tried." Arroyo, who was a lead singer in that small martial law-era chorus of protest, dismissed the entire episode as a political gimmick to turn Angara into a "hero."

Since Tuesday night Angara has toned down his rhetoric, making the usual noises again about working with the administration on key legislation, but one remark he made during the "emergency" news conference is worth remembering: "The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino which I head will work to oust the incompetent Macapagal-Arroyo administration in the 2004 election. That is our exclusive agenda."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Angara's partymate, joined the LDP boycott of the summit, saying he expected nothing "dramatic" from it anyway. Of course not. Presidential candidate-in-waiting Angara had already provided the drama.

Rhoel's example

LAST Friday was the second death anniversary of Claretian missionary Fr. Rhoel Gallardo. His body—together with those of schoolteachers Editha Lumame, Anabelle Mendoza and Ruben Democrito—was found on May 3, 2000, in a jungle clearing in Basilan, in the aftermath of an encounter between Abu Sayyaf bandits and government soldiers.

The anniversary was marked by a major breakthrough: the arrest in General Santos City of Salip Abdullah, a prime suspect in Gallardo's abduction and death. While the arrest came two years too late, we still welcome the development. It helps us remember with greater clarity the sacrifice that Gallardo and the three Claretian teachers had made. It also pushes us all the more to seek a lasting solution to the Abu Sayyaf crisis. There is no doubt that part of the solution is military; it will take arms to kill the scourge. But it will also take more teachers like the four martyrs, who will teach the next generation the one true lesson: We are all in the jungle together, struggling to make a clearing.



Powee

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



as it contains a heartbreakingly sad report. After long reflection and discussion among us in the family, we finally decided that you had to be told at this time that Powee is dead. He died on Jan. 28 of cardiac arrest and we laid him to rest the following Tuesday, Jan. 31. He is now in that special place in heaven where children are allowed all kinds of pranks and enjoy all kinds of toys and goodies and draw all kinds of dinosaurs.

"Like all of us, you will probably ask: Why Powee? Why at this time when he was only 4 years old and had a lifetime before him? Why the waste of all the talent and beauty in this little boy who was the center of our lives and of our family?"

"There is no answer to these questions except in the inscrutable wisdom of God, Who 'works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.' Let us accept His decision and, strong in our faith, believe that Powee is in a far better place than ours, where a little boy's heart will spill with joy at all the wonders and all the magic around him and he will have the room of all infinity to play his imaginary space adventures.

"I know you were especially close to Powee and he to you, and that is why I am very anxious over how you will be taking this tragic news. Gani, have a good cry and sob your heart out and pour out all your grief for Powee. After that, get a hold of yourself and accept that he is gone from us forever, except in tender and happy memories that will continue to brighten our remembrances of our

beloved and eternal boy.

"Powee lit up all our lives for four years, and it is something for which we should be grateful to God. Can you imagine what those four years would have been without Powee? He was a gift Heaven sent to gladden us with his mischiefs and his good looks and his intelligence and his wide vocabulary and his accent and his drawings and the way he mussed up his hair and the thousand other lovable things that made him Powee. For that wonderful and irreplaceable gift, let us thank God though our hearts are breaking now."

When Gani came home some weeks later, Karen took him for a walk in our park. It was a mild summer evening when she talked to him about Powee's death and comforted him with stories about his departed nephew. Karen was serene in her grief, unlike Claro who was inconsolable for months. I could understand how he must have felt to lose his one and only son.

Powee is a dim memory now, but every now and then I muse over what he would be at this time if he had not drowned when he was only 4. I recall that he once called me up in my office and asked me to bring him home some chocolates. I said I had no time because I had to meet my classes that night, and he replied, "I have plenty of time, Grandpa, I will give you my time." It may be an idle thought, but could there have been some deeper meaning in his offer?

Powee was the first member of my immediate family to die, and he was the youngest too. I couldn't sleep one night worrying that he was all alone in that vast infinity with not a single adult relative to take care of him. When I finally dozed off, I dreamt of my late father holding the little boy's hand as they walked among the clouds. They had never met in life but had bonded in the skies.

Reminders

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M.
Orbos, SVD



was really amazing. The butterfly settled on my right shoulder and stayed there for some moments as I walked on. There are so many reminders of God's presence and love in our everyday lives if only we'd really stop and listen. Simple moments can bring us to a moment of prayer...like right now.

Every year, I try to go to Korea on a pilgrimage to a little town called Naju where the visionary Julia Kim has been receiving messages from the Blessed Mother since 1985. Julia's statue of the Blessed Mother has wept tears and tears of blood to remind us of conversion. The statue and Julia herself exude the fragrance of roses, a reminder of the Blessed Mother's presence and love. The 19 eucharistic miracles of which I have been a witness several times, remind us of the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and the many times we have taken the Eucharist for granted or even sacrilegiously. There is also the spring in the Holy Mountain shown to Julia in a dream which has been a source of many physical, emotional and spiritual healings. For me personally, more than the phenomena, it is the person of the visionary herself that really touches me. Julia is so simple, unassuming and childlike. She suffers a lot of physical pain for others (victim soul) and yet she is so happy and joyful. She suffers persecution from unbelievers and even from the clergy, but

she continues to be an obedient child of the church. Most of all, I have often felt the Blessed Mother's unconditional love through Julia who is so welcoming, so generous with her time and so giving. Meeting her and embracing her is like being embraced by the Blessed Mother. Yes, there are people who are living reminders of God's presence and love. How about you and me? What do we remind people of?

Talking of reminders, remember how I lost my passport in Barcelona, and how German national Gerhard Pitters helped me through Immigration in Frankfurt last April 16? Well, talk about things coming to a full circle. Last April 26, I received a phone call from a German national who said he read my column about my Barcelona experience and he was calling to ask my help because he too lost everything, and he needed cash to be bailed out of a motel where he was staying. By phone, the motel manager assured me that that was the real situation, so I sent my driver to give him the cash, and bailed him out. Through it all, my thinking was that even if I was being taken for a ride, I was going to help him anyway. It was the least I could do to help a German who had nothing in a foreign land the same way a German by the name of Gerhard Pitters helped me when I too, lost everything in a foreign land. Oh well, who knows what's still up ahead as we go on. All I know is that God knows, and that nothing happens by accident for those who trust in the Lord. And be sure of this: Through the Holy Spirit, God will send again and again, at very opportune times, reminders of His presence and love as we go on in life.

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, there will always be something or someone there to remind me of your presence and love. Amen.

WHAT do you always carry in your pocket or in your wallet? Me? I always carry a handkerchief and a rosary on my left pocket, something which I learned as a child from Mama. No big deal maybe, but for me, it is a valuable reminder of a person so dear in my life. Question: Long after you and I are gone, what will people remember us by?

In today's Gospel (Jn 14:15-21) Jesus told his disciples that He will not leave them orphans. He promised to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, the Comforter who will always be with them. It will be just "in a little while" before the Paraclete comes. Remember how we as children would always want to be assured of our parents' return whenever they had to leave us? Parents, never underestimate the value of your presence to your children. Even if you do not have presents, as long as you are present, that is more than enough.

I am writing this column in Seoul, Korea where I served as a missionary for four years (1980-1984). Just being here brings back so many beautiful memories. Looking back, I know that it was the Lord who sustained me through it all. It was not easy to leave home, country and family and to brave deprivations, loneliness and even persecutions, but the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, made it all possible. "My love will see you through" was the constant song in my heart. The Lord's promise "I am with you always" was my only assurance.

God always gives us reminders of His presence and love. I remember one time when I was feeling low and even had a fever, but had to go to language school. Out of nowhere, what do I see? A butterfly! Just the sight of a butterfly brought back so many memories of my carefree childhood summer days in Bani, Pangasinan. It was such an uplifting moment. The next thing that happened

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2002

Juvenile sex offenders

COMMENTARY

Melanie P. Ramos

Institute on Church and Social Issues

JUST recently, a scandal broke out in the Roman Catholic Church after some priests were accused of sexually abusing minors. Pope John Paul II, clearly appalled by these events, delivered a strong statement condemning child sexual abuse by the clergy. This prompted many people to reflect on the gravity of sexual abuse cases in our world today.

In jails all over the Philippines, there are thousands who have been convicted of sexual crimes, such as rape and acts of lasciviousness. In fact, next to robbery and theft, rape ranks second among the most frequently committed crimes today. What is most disheartening is that rape is committed not only by adults, but by young people as well.

The number of juvenile sex offenders is on the rise. Data from the Philippine Jesuit Prison Service (PJPS), an NGO based at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa, indicate that sexual offenses rank second among the types of crimes often committed by young offenders being held in the National Penitentiary. It was estimated that out of the 127 juvenile offenders at Camp Sampaquita, 36 had committed sex crimes (e.g. rape, acts of lasciviousness). Seven minors in Death Row have also been convicted of rape.

Statistics from the various detention centers, as well as city and provincial jails nationwide, also indicate that the number of juveniles committing sex crimes is increasing. These sexually abusive behaviors range from non-contact offenses to penetrative acts.

Moreover, sex offenders in the Philippines are becoming younger. Children as young as 11 years old are being tried in courts for rape.

Although the issue of sexual abuse among adult offenders has been thoroughly studied, the roots of sexual violence in children and adolescents have not been given much attention. Stud-

ies of juvenile sex offenders show that the following factors may help explain the roots of sexual violence in children: family factors, child maltreatment history, substance abuse and pornography.

Family factors have been noted as one of the probable roots of sexual violence in children. Family instability, disorganization and violence have been found to be prevalent among sexually aggressive youth. Lack of parental discipline and supervision in early childhood could lead to problems with the conduct of children. This could result in the child being rejected by his/her peers and then academic failure. The child's feeling of rejection by his/her friends could drive him to associate with deviant peer groups that could influence him to perform delinquent acts.

Childhood experiences of abuse and neglect, and witnessing family violence have also been connected with sexual violence in juveniles. A prevalent clinical assumption is that many adult and adolescent sex offenders have experienced sexual abuse in their youth. A cycle of violence is thus begun, in which the victims of violence later violently victimize others.

The role of substance abuse in juvenile sex offenses remains ambiguous. Although some studies have noted that juvenile sex offenders commit crimes while under the influence of drugs, other studies point out that substance abuse problems must be differentiated from "normative" experimentation, which is part of adolescent developmental process.

Investigations into the role of pornography in juvenile sex offenses are limited in number. Though some studies have shown that exposure to pornographic materials was common among young sex offenders, other studies do not support this view.

Clearly, interventions must be provided to juvenile sex offenders at the earliest possible time: interventions in the form of prevention and rehabilitation programs. Prevention essentially starts within the family, where parents strive to provide their children an atmosphere of love, guidance and support. Institutions outside the family must also support programs that promote family health and unity and the physical, social, mental and moral well-being of the youth.

As regards rehabilitation programs, it is disheartening to note that the Philippine correctional system does not have a clear and effective program for juvenile sex offenders. All youth offenders, regardless of the offense, go through the same type of rehabilitation. This is detrimental to the child, as his/her specific needs may not be clearly met. A "one-size fits all" approach to rehabilitation just will not do. Juvenile sex offenders need a special kind of treatment that is different from juvenile offenders who have committed non-sexual offenses.

Juvenile sex crimes are clearly a growing problem in our society. As there is a dearth of data on such cases, more studies need to be conducted to better understand this complex issue and to come up with effective rehabilitation programs for sexually aggressive youth. Sexually aggressive juveniles are likely to commit subsequent violence. There is a pressing need to implement prevention and rehabilitation programs at the earliest possible time to keep these children from committing the same offenses and from becoming hardcore sex criminals.

Outward migration has its merits also

MOVE over US of A. You're no longer the favorite destination of Filipinos who want to escape the country's economic and political problems.

The latest flavors of the month of our footloose countrymen are Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Have you noticed lately the spate of advertisements in the newspapers of immigration lawyers announcing their expertise in facilitating the entry of Filipinos to those countries?

If the statistics

from the Department of Labor and Employment are to be believed, close to 2,500 Filipinos leave the country every day to seek employment or migrate elsewhere in the world. It is safe to assume that almost one-half of them plan to permanently reside in their favored First-World country.

The exodus has become a cause for worry for some economists and sociologists who fear that, if left unabated, the "brain drain" will have adverse effects on the country's growth and development.

This apprehension is based on the assumption that with the departure of the so-called "best and the brightest," the country will be left with second-rate citizens, or people who lack the kind of talent that would justify the issuance to them of entry visas by the developed countries. Do we hear a loud howl of protest from those who have opted to stay and do their share in nation building in spite of the lures that have been thrown their way to convince them to join the exodus?

Or should the heavy outward migration be treated as a portent of things to come in our country?

Fresh infusion

Before we engage in self-flagellation over the recent migration pattern, let's take a close look at the effects of such movement on our social and economic structures.

Like other countries that underwent a similar experience, migration provides a "safety valve" for surpluses in human resources. As the population grows and natural bounties dwindle, the competition for the resources available becomes keener.

It's no different from the law of supply and demand. As the demand goes up, the supply shrinks. The pie available for eating becomes smaller when more people want to have a taste of it.

The jobs that the migrant Filipinos give up when they pack up and leave are taken over by those who follow them in the pecking order. With the country's schools producing thousands of graduates every year without a corresponding increase in work opportunities, the competition for available jobs is reduced by the number of those workers who have sought greener pastures abroad.

The social impact of that abundance in idle human talent cannot be ignored. A huge corps of unemployed educated workers or professionals is a perfect spawning ground for dissatisfaction that would make the life of the recruiters of the National Democratic Front a breeze.

Migration may be likened to blood transfusion. When old blood is drawn out, new blood is created to replace it. As migrant Filipinos transit from the country, their places in society are taken over by those who believe their destiny lies in their own country. In the process, new vigor and new ideas are infused into the community.

Adversity

Even with the heavy migration of Filipinos, the country will not find itself lacking in people who have the talent and initiative that will enable them to overcome the adversities caused by poor social and economic conditions.

For those who think the country's problems are beyond repair or believe that no good future awaits them here, migration is the best course of action for survival.

There are more than enough whiners, belly-achers and complainers in the country to make our lives miserable. So those who have doubts about their ability to cope with the innumerable problems of our society will be better off hieing off to the country where they think they can live better lives.

With their departure, the country is left to the care of Filipinos who believe they can make lemonade out of lemons or who are able to succeed in spite of the adversities that can make life challenging for the ordinary businessman or entrepreneur. Who was it who said that success is sweeter when achieved against all odds?

True, the loss of Filipino talent to countries that contributed nothing to their development is not something to be happy about. But neither is it something to feel desperate about because there is an abundance of Filipinos in the Philippines who are willing to use their God-given qualities for the benefit of their countrymen.

Organized migration

If it's any consolation, the reported exodus of Filipinos to other shores is not unique to our country. Other nations in different times have experienced the same problem, although under different circumstances.

During the 1900s, Sweden and Ireland saw almost 60 percent of their population migrate to the United States and other European countries to escape chronic food shortages in their lands. Years later, the two countries were able to pull themselves up.

Unknown to many, shortly after World War II, Japan (yes, the only Asian economic superpower) encouraged its people to seek greener pastures elsewhere for economic reasons. The devastation caused by the war was so bad, aggravated by the heavy loss of its able-bodied youth, that the Japanese government had to "request" its citizens to move out to ease pressure on the country's limited resources. The incentive to leave came in the form of passage money and a small sum of money to tide them over in their chosen countries until they are able to get gainful employment.

Since they were not welcome in the United States or other Asian countries where the wounds of the war were still fresh, the Japanese migrants set their eyes on South America. This explains the presence of large Japanese communities in that part of the world.

Decades later, a son of one of those Japanese immigrants, Alberto Fujimori, was elected president of Peru. When he resigned in disgrace, Japan was quick to recognize him as one of its own and granted him political asylum.

Whether the present immigration situation in the Philippines will eventually go the way of Japan remains to be seen.

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Spider-Man, the superteen

LOOKING forward to non-stop, slam-bang, swinging action, the hubby was a bit disappointed at the end of the "Spider-Man" premiere. "It was slow at times," he commented, referring to many moments in the movie when Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire), the young man who gains "superhuman" powers after he's bitten by a genetically altered spider, broods on his fate, including his unrequited love for Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst).

"But that's the trademark of the Spider-Man comic books," I told him. Unlike other superheroes like Superman or Captain America, who are relentlessly optimistic, gung-ho and perennially patriotic, "Spidey" is brooding, edgy, swinging not just from rooftops but also from sunny to sullen and back, anti-establishment and insecure. A typical adolescent, in other words.

To the credit of the filmmakers, notably director Sam Raimi and screenwriter David Koepp, they make no effort to soften Peter's rough edges. And while it may have been more commercially appealing to fill up screen time with fight scenes and breathtaking aerial scenery, they kept true to the rather dark milieu of the Spider-Man comics. They give ample time to Peter Parker's exploration of youthful angst and jumbled motivations. While Peter's love-from-a-distance for Mary Jane is sweet and innocent, in the movie winning her favor is also the rather dubious motive for his far-from-altruistic decision to turn superhero.

I DON'T know if Stan Lee and Steve Ditko, who created Spider-Man, had deeper levels of meaning in mind when they made the father of Parker's best friend transform into the "Green Goblin," Spider-Man's arch-enemy.

Are the battles between Spidey and the Green Goblin a metaphor for the clash of generations? Complicating things is the fact that Harry (the luscious James Franco), Peter's best friend, has a conflicted love-hate relationship with his father Norman Osborn, a megalomaniacal tycoon who uses his superpower and advanced technology to get back at his enemies. Is Peter a

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



stand-in for Harry? Then what are we to make of Harry's vow, after Spider-Man trounces the Green Goblin, to hunt down the masked hero to avenge his father's death?

Peter, too, has filial issues of his own. An orphan, he is raised by his Uncle Ben (Cliff Robertson) and Aunt May (Rosemary Harris) whom he loves dearly but cannot quite accept as replacements for his missing parents. When Uncle Ben attempts to give him some "fatherly" advice, Peter rebuffs the old man by telling him not to even try as "you're not my father." When, because of some grudge, he lets a criminal go and the criminal ends up killing Uncle Ben, Peter plunges into depression and guilt. Only Uncle Ben's words of wisdom, that "with great power comes great responsibility," rouse Peter from the dumps and convince him to harness his newfound powers to do good.

PETER'S complex and even contradictory character not only gives Spider-Man its edge, it may also explain the comic book's durable popularity, especially among the young.

In Peter Parker young readers find a hero they can identify with, a young man with weaknesses and vulnerabilities that aren't allowed to surface in the sunnier superheroes. Spider-Man, in fact, ushered in a new age of comic books, appealing to a new generation of readers in the 1960s who'd gotten tired of the one-dimensional heroes who battled Nazis and assorted nasties since before World War II.

But Peter not only reflects young people's emotional make-up. As Spider-Man, he also gives them a sense of empowerment, reassurance that even a teenager can somehow gain a measure of

control over his environment and prevail over unsavory aspects of his reality. At one point in the comic book franchise, Spider-Man even led the way in connecting comic-book worlds to the world we know. Aside from battling the Green Goblin and other super-villains, Spider-Man began going after "real-life" villains like slumlords and drug dealers.

Spidey became a hero not only like his young fans, but also one who went after the old fogies they dearly wished to run to ground. The sullen, confused and troubled Peter/Spider-Man has thus become a role model for the young people following his exploits.

AS a parent I'm quite "invested" in the idea that the way I raise my children will shape and determine their personalities and behavior. Not just because, together with my husband, we have passed on to them genes that determine not just how they look, but also how they look on the world, but also because, we hope, we have molded them into "images" of ourselves, sharing our values, our fundamental beliefs, even our likes and dislikes.

But studies have proven that "evidence for this belief is sorely lacking," as Malcolm Gladwell points out in his book "The Tipping Point."

"Parents provide food and a home and protection and the basics of everyday life that children need to be safe and healthy and happy. This much is easy. But does it make a lasting difference to the personality of your child if you are an anxious and inexperienced parent, as opposed to being authoritative and competent?... (D)oes the specific social environment that we create in our homes make a real difference in the way our children end up as adults?" Gladwell inquires. His answer: Not really. Environment plays a big—if not bigger—a role as heredity in shaping personality and intelligence. Their peers may exert as much influence on how our children turn out as we do. Even, or especially, a "peer" such as Spider-Man.

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The crisis of political parties

IN WESTERN democracies, the public pays for a large part of the expenses of political parties. This subsidy acknowledges two essential functions that electoral parties play in a democracy. These are: one, to aggregate and represent the interests of citizens in the nation's political life; and two, to participate in the orderly contest for governmental power.

Would we pay for the expenses of Filipino political parties? I very much doubt that we would. Our view of the nature and functions of political parties in our country is not flattering. We see them more as personal tools of self-seeking politicians than as social vehicles of collective interests. Their relation to grass-roots communities is fictional, and their political visions are a litany of clichés with neither coherence nor imagination. As a result, they have no steady membership bases to speak of—people who would pay regular dues to the organization as a manifestation of commitment to party programs and ideals.

Their leaders and candidates are in the same party out of expediency and not because they share a common vision or philosophy. Party loyalty and discipline are alien to their nature, and turncoatism is the norm rather than the exception. In truth, we are dealing here not so much with political parties in the theoretical sense as with syndicates formed by the convergence of the most transitory interests.

Our recent political history attests to the growing irrelevance of political parties to our public life. Our people did not mourn their demise when Marcos shut them out in 1972. Fourteen years later, when the Filipino people began to mobilize against the dictatorship, the organizations that spearheaded the protest movement were not political parties but non-party formations like cause-oriented groups and people's organizations. The parties came to life again only when the Aquino administration announced new elections.

The same thing happened in 2001 when the

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



mobilizations against the corrupt and incompetent Estrada administration came to a head. It was not the political parties that offered an intelligent and credible critique of the regime but civil society groups. Only the elections of May 2001 saved the political parties from total marginalization. But it is obvious to many thoughtful Filipinos that the public disenchantment that has crept into our political life since Edsa II is as much directed against politicians in general as it is against individual officials like the president.

The political parties in our country have failed our people in at least three ways: first, they have failed to offer alternative practical ideas for the reconstruction of our society and the re-invention of the role of government; second, they have failed to map out the persistent class and communal divisions that have fragmented our country and to represent the interests notably of those who have little or no access to government; and third, they have failed to organize stable constituencies at the grass-roots level. These failures lie very much at the core of our people's disaffection with our political system and have made the repeated resort to extra-constitutional politics look reasonable.

Our people are tired. They want stability in their lives. They want their leaders to stop bickering and to get on with the business of developing the country. This is a good time to pause and to imagine new arrangements that will define the terms of our practical relations to one another as citizens of this nation. It is time we went

beyond an understanding of our society as, in the graphic words of Roberto Unger, "merely the truce lines and trophies of an ongoing social warfare."

But, for this to happen, it will not be enough for our political parties to simply declare, as the ongoing All-Parties Conference at the Manila Hotel does in its United Declaration, that "There is only one way to change government and that is by regularly scheduled elections.... We unreservedly condemn coups, putsches, rebellions, insurrections, civil disorder, lawlessness and mass demonstrations aimed at a change of duly elected and democratic governments other than by regular scheduled elections."

How can they say this without mocking those who risked their lives to bring down the corrupt Estrada presidency? Of course, it goes without saying that, under normal circumstances, elections are to be preferred over extra-constitutional action. But it is not for the political parties, they who live for elections, to say this. Let us not forget that people power was as much a statement against discredited regimes as it was against the limits of conventional politics.

The political party system in our country has been in crisis since the early '70s. It is caught in the rituals and vocabulary of a borrowed 19th-century model of political rivalry that bears no relation to the actual divisions in our society. It has been unable to respond to the growing activism and self-organization of various sectors of our people. Filipinos vote for individuals, not parties. They don't take political parties seriously.

The All-Parties Conference seems to have looked at everything about our society except the reasons for the increasing insignificance of political parties to our national life. It nearly pronounces itself on every urgent task, except what to do to re-invent political parties so they may one day be deemed worthy of public subsidy.

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

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TALK of the TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

What's Church to do with pedophile priests?

CHILD sex scandals have shaken the Catholic Church in the United States, prompting Pope John Paul II to summon US cardinals to Rome to address the problem. The Philippines has its share of pedophile priests, although the problem has not broken out in the open as in the United States where a growing number of victims are suing their molesters. Some dioceses in the US are coughing up millions of dollars to pay damages to the victims.

A culture of silence explains the few cases of clerical sex scandal that come to light in the country. Victims would rather clam up than face their tormentors in court. The element of *hiya* (shame) also comes into play. It's just too shameful in Philippine culture to report the sins of a priest. An exception is the case of a 14-

year-old girl who sued an SVD priest for allegedly raping her. The priest has been jailed in Quezon City since 2000.

Pedophilia amounts to an abuse of power. An errant priest uses his position to engage in sexual activity with minors, who are most likely receiving pastoral care and spiritual direction from him.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines recognizes the problem but says pedophilia is not due to celibacy but to psychological deviations. To address the problem, the CBCP is adopting a rigid vetting process and a professional code of ethics for priests, which it hopes to finish by July 2003. Between now and the second half of next year, it's not clear how the CBCP will handle pedophile priests.

'I felt trapped and helpless'

By Elsa, a victim
College teacher

ONE of the priests in our parish started molesting me when I was in grade school. I was seven or eight years old.

He was considered a family friend so it was not unusual for him to drop by our house for a visit on weekends. He would bring old comic books and magazines for us children, and do magic tricks for the family. Being the youngest, I was chosen by him as his assistant in doing his tricks.

He was usually seated while performing, and I would stand beside him or in front of him. At the end of the "show," he would put his arms around me from behind, with one of his hands on my chest and the other on my crotch. He would then pull me toward him so that my back would be touching his body. When I pulled back, he would release me and start joking with the others.

Alone

Then he started to visit during school days, when my parents were still at work and my elder siblings in school for extracurricular activities. I was the one at home to receive him. He would wait until we were left alone on the porch. Then he would give me comic books and ask me to sit beside him. He'd talk to me, but I don't remember what he talked about.

I was usually silent, wishing for someone to come or for him to go away. I didn't like him because he smelled of sweat. And the way he looked at me made me uncomfortable. After a while, he would either hug me while touching my chest and crotch, or put me on his lap and hug me tightly. All the while he would be smiling and talking.

I didn't know what was going on. All I knew was that I felt trapped and helpless. I hated every minute of it and didn't want to remember anything. This is why I pretended to be somewhere else during his visits. If I was not there, it couldn't happen to me.

Black curtain

When I was with him, it was as if a black curtain shrouded my mind. I had no thoughts, no memories. I became quite good at this that later on I could forget he was there as soon as he left. I'd grab one of my favorite books after he was gone and immerse myself in the story.

He was usually content with groping my chest and crotch, but one time he became very insistent that I lay my head on his lap and sleep. I didn't want to do it, so whenever he pushed my head down, I'd get up. He finally picked me up and placed me on his lap. Until now I don't recall what happened next. All I remember is hearing my *yaya* call my name after what seemed like ages and the wonderful feeling of relief that came over me.

I think it was then that I started to actively avoid him. One day he suddenly arrived for lunch, and I pretended to be asleep until he left. Never mind if I got a stomachache because of hunger.

He was later given a barrio assignment so that his visits became less frequent, much to my delight. When he did come, I would either hide in my room or seek my *yaya's* company.

Why didn't I tell anyone? I'm not sure. Probably because I pretended that it wasn't happening to me, or maybe because as I grew up and his visits stopped altogether, I "erased" all memory of what he did to me.

Angry

Twenty years later, I read in an advice column a letter from a young girl who was molested by her uncle. That letter brought on a severe headache for me. A few days later I started to recall bits and pieces of what had happened to me. That was a horrible time because I felt so dirty and so angry with myself for my stupidity. I tortured myself with thoughts like why I didn't tell anybody, why I let him do that, why I didn't run away from him, why I didn't fight, why I didn't shout. I blamed myself.

I finally mustered enough courage to

write my parents about it, feeling like a child waiting to be scolded and be called a liar. Imagine my relief when the scolding never came. My parents believed me, and so did my siblings. One of my sisters said that she had a similar experience with the priest, and that some of her classmates were also victimized. The priest sometimes took over the duties of our school chaplain.

Counseling

My family's support and assurance that I was not to blame in any way lifted a load off my mind, but I still needed counseling a few years later. I had one session with a nun who handled cases like mine. She mentioned that she also counseled priests who were child molesters. That one session helped me a lot, because even if my family kept assuring me that I was the victim and was not to blame, I guess I still needed to hear it from someone who was not family. She helped me regain my self-esteem and feel good about myself again.

I am glad that this is now being discussed. There have been news items in the papers of the scandal about pedophile priests in America. I admire those who are seeking justice. It's not easy to admit that you were victimized. Up to now I still remember the feeling of helplessness, of shame, of anger.

'Boys kept silent out of fear'

By Karen V. de la Cruz
Psychologist

FIFTEEN years ago, a friend of mine whispered to me a story of a 12-year-old boy from a depressed area, who asked for her help. He witnessed a parish priest from a nearby church fondling the private parts of two male children, ages five and seven.

The boy introduced her to the two kids. After several meetings and conversations to build rapport, the kids told her tidbits of the experience. With fear and discomfort in their eyes, they urged her to swear not to tell anyone, especially their parents. Asked why, they said that the priest had warned them not to tell anyone or else. My friend felt powerless—torn between guilt, responsibility and anger—but kept her word not to tell anyone...and the children stayed silent...

WHY do victims keep silent? Why do witnesses prefer not to talk? From a psychological viewpoint, fear is a major reason—from fear for one's life to fear of scandal.

Victims fear that if they report their tragedy, they open themselves and their loved ones to sympathy and attack. Society would know the gory details about them. And if it blows into a major court case, they will be re-living the trauma.

Abuse of power

The issue of power also complicates the trauma. If the aggressor is seen as powerful (like an authority figure), chances are, the victim will feel helpless. Feelings of powerlessness come from how victims see themselves vis-à-vis their aggressor—their age, gender, economic state, their ability to fight physically and defend their credibility, the risks they take if they fight back, and even the number and quality of friends and support they have.

Then there is also stress tolerance involved—the inner will, the conviction to stand up, to put up with the risk, the pain and consequences of enduring a fight in which the results are uncertain. Very few victims want to tread a path that shows slim chances of winning.

From the witnesses' viewpoint, while fear also applies, other dynamics come into play. Witnesses to a crime tend to whisper what they saw to the person closest to them and may choose to leave it at that. When asked to openly report the crime or help the victim,



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PAGE DESIGN: ERNIE SAMBO

non-involvement may be the more preferred option. The graver the crime, the more powerful the aggressor, the "safer" it is to just "shut up."

'We are preparing a professional code of ethics for priests'

By Archbishop Orlando B. Quevedo
President, Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines

AT THIS stage, we don't know how rampant child abuse by priests in the country is. No study has been made on this. For the United States, a Jesuit psychologist, who has been working with priest sex offenders, says that researchers believe that about three to six percent of Americans are pedophiles.

"While no one knows for sure the exact percentage of priest pedophiles, no serious researcher has established that there are more pedophile offenders in the ranks of the priesthood than elsewhere," says Curtis Bryant, S.J. (America, April 1, 2002 p. 14).

Besides pedophilia, the Church in the Philippines has been confronting other forms of sexual offenses by priests such as consensual sex, sex with male and female minors through enticement, and priests who sired children. These would most probably constitute the bigger problem for the Church community.

For most cases, involvement in sexual offenses by priests can be attributed to human nature, which the Church describes as sinful but redeemed. Probably, more than any vocation, the priestly vocation—even as a gift of God—is carefully selected, nurtured,

tested, evaluated and approved.

This is done every year for the nine years or more that a candidate is formed academically, psychologically and spiritually in his college and theology courses. Even then, one or two out of a priestly ordination class of 12 might stumble and fall, not wanting to rise again as priests.

These are the usual cases of priest sex offenders Jesus spoke of in a parable about the seed that grows but is choked by weeds and thorns, about the seed that is sowed on infertile soil and lacks roots. The parable can apply to the priestly vocation. "Busyness" without deep prayer, the gradual development of a lifestyle not consonant with the life and ministry of a priest—these can lead to unhealthy human relationships.

Pedophilia cases, however, belong to the minority. We are learning only now that pedophilia and ephebophilia (attraction to male minors between 15 to 17) are not due to the usual temptations against celibacy but to psychological deviations. The root cause is not so much in one's conscience as in one's psyche. The treatment then is not spiritual retreat leading to conversion but long-term psychological treatment leading to control of one's behavioral pattern.

We are aware that various treatments are based on different theories on the root causes. The theories of psychologists differ from those of behaviorists. Sociological and feminist analyses also have different theories and so we really don't have as yet a comprehensive knowledge about the causes of sexual offenses.

Response

Learning from the experiences of the different Churches in the world, especially in the United States, we have initiated programs of spiritual, psychological, and theological formation for priests. Many dioceses now have special programs of on-going formation for young priests. Recruitment, selection, psychological and spiritual evaluation are becoming more rigid. The Program of Priestly Formation for the Philippines is undergoing comprehensive revision. The age of Ordination is being pushed back because of additional requirements.

When I was ordained in the 1960s, probably the average age of Ordination was 26. Now it could be 28 to 30. For priests with special difficulties we now have a rather intensive program of renewal. This program is aimed at healing with the assistance of professional counselors, spiritual directors, and psychiatrists. It is, therefore, a blend of the traditional healing instruments of the Church and the new tools provided by psychology and psychiatry.

So far the results have been promising. These have already been tested in the other churches in the world.

The other paramount concern of the Church is the victim of the priest sex offender. While the monetary factor is usually the first thing resolved, it seems to me that a lot of healing and therapy have yet to be done.

We will be working on this as we go through the difficult process of producing, with the help of experts in various fields, a protocol on priest sex offenders and a professional code of ethics for priests and religious. We hope to finish this work by July 2003.

Strike one

I don't believe that the "strike-one-and-you're-out" policy should be applied to every case. A range of sanctions should be considered for various offenses. There are many cases of one-time offenders who have gone straight for 10 years. We can learn from the criminal justice system that considers the gravity of each case and the prospects of recidivism, the actual re-commission of the same offense. In one report over a 10-year period, more than 400 sex offenders were treated and only four recidivated.

We also need cooperation and concordance between the processes that the Church follows and the criminal justice system. This has yet to be worked out.

Justice, indeed, has to be meted out, but tempered with compassion, with the real possibility of personal renewal.

My final word is this. In all cases, Church authorities must act with courage, humility, and honesty. In all cases, too, the whole Church community must help toward the total good of both victim and offender. Only through cooperation can this tide of human misery be turned.

'A call to humility and transformation'

By Sr. Nila V. Bermisa, MM
Women and Gender Commission-AMRSP

A CRISIS in the Church is a crisis for the entire community of faith, the Body of Christ. This crisis refers to the sexual misconduct of priests and men religious.

It is a crisis because more and more people are becoming aware of the sexual abuses inflicted on women, men and children by priests and men religious, the very people whom they trust and look up to for guidance. It is a crisis as it is casting a dark shadow on the ministry and credibility of Church people. It is a crisis because of the legal and financial implications. And it can be, and has been, for many a crisis in faith for people who feel their trust violated and betrayed.

Sexual misconduct happens when Church ministers (ordained clergy, employees and volunteers), use their position to engage in sexual activity with parishioners, co-workers, or clients. This unethical sexual conduct involves a minor or vulnerable adult, including a person receiving pastoral care and/or spiritual direction. This behavior involves abuse of authority.

Compensation

Clearly, bishops and superiors have a responsibility for the actions of these priests. The affected dioceses and congregations have a responsibility to safeguard the well-being of the victims and to compensate them.

The problem has reached crisis proportions because of the inability of those in charge to address the abuses properly.

Another problem is the indifference of the Church hierarchy and priests toward women in the Church. Leadership revolves around the ordained male, thus women's voice and experiences continue to be given less importance. There's a great challenge for the priests and the Church hierarchy to see women as full human beings with equal dignity and potential. It is hoped that priests and men religious learn to relate with women as partners in ministry and not as subordinates or as sex objects.

Biased theology

The faithful, too, have a responsibility to correct the mistakes. Too often, whether because of culture or of the supposed mystique surrounding priesthood, the faithful, including the victim, have been silent when it comes to the sexual misconduct of priests and men religious. Perhaps, blame can also be placed on biased theology and Church teachings regarding the place of women. There is the tendency to excuse the actions of the priest by blaming the woman.

Efforts are being initiated by women's groups to identify and assist victims of sexual abuse perpetrated by priests and men religious in the country. There is also an effort to engage Church authorities in discussions to address these problems. I hope that with humility, honesty and cooperation, accompanied by unwavering faith in God, we shall come through this crisis wiser and more authentic Christians.

In Greek, there is the word *kairos*, which means sacred time and a time of special presence of the Holy Spirit. I would like to see the present crisis in the Church as *kairos*. It is indeed a sacred time not only for the Catholic Church in the Philippines but also the whole Church to heed the call for transformation theologically, spiritually and structurally.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Israelis, Palestinians weigh Middle East peace conference plan

JERUSALEM—US Secretary of State Colin Powell's announcement of plans for a Middle East conference drew a wary response from Israel but was welcomed by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader Ariel Sharon rejects as a peace partner.

Both sides weighed the prospect of returning to the peace table under a wide international umbrella, but the White House kept its distance from conference preparations and signaled that not too much should be expected from such a forum.

The Palestinian Cabinet, holding its first meeting since Israeli forces swept into the West Bank on March 29 after suicide bombers killed scores of Israelis, said in a statement it was reaffirming its "condemnation of all forms of terrorism."

But in a possible challenge to the United States and Israel, it said its legal authorities would review the detention of two militants who were jailed on Wednesday under a US-brokered deal that ended Israel's month-long siege of Arafat's compound.

In Bethlehem, efforts to ease a month-old standoff at the Israeli-besieged Church of the Nativity on Orthodox Christian Good Friday foundered when a deal to bring food to people inside the shrine fell through.

At the United Nations, Arab nations frustrated that a deadlocked Security Council would not denounce Israel for blocking a UN investigation into its assault on the Jenin refugee camp, said they would ask the General Assembly to approve a resolution accusing the Jewish state of war crimes.

Appearing to catch both sides off guard, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Washington was preparing for a conference this summer to take advantage of a "window of opportunity" opened by the end of Arafat's confinement.

But the White House later tried to discourage high expectations, saying only ministers would attend the conference and it would probably not propose a final settlement.

No venue or date has been set. Powell made his announcement after meeting UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and two European Union leaders—a "quartet" set up to coordinate the international peace effort.

"Until now, it is an idea that we welcome. But it has not been agreed upon and we have not been officially notified," Arafat told reporters in Ramallah.

"We will consult all the brethren Arab lead-

ers over this conference before it convenes," said Arafat, whose freedom of movement was restored after Israeli tanks left his compound in the West Bank city on Wednesday under a US-brokered deal.

Reuters

Coalition troops disarm Afghan village

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—Coalition forces disarmed an entire village suspected of harboring al-Qaida sympathizers in southern Afghanistan, confiscating an anti-aircraft gun and other weapons, a US military spokesperson said Saturday.

American special forces and Afghan troops participated in the operation Friday, Maj. Bryan Hilferty said.

"They weren't terribly happy but there was no resistance," Hilferty told reporters at Bagram air base. He declined to identify the town.

Meanwhile, a 1,000-strong British-led force continued a massive push through southeastern Afghanistan, seizing 2,000 rounds of automatic weapons ammunition in a cave, said Royal Marines spokesperson Lt. Col. Paul Harradine.

The British-led operation is going through as-yet unchecked territory in search of al-Qaida and Taliban fighters and hideouts they may have used.

The operation is being backed by US air support and some US special operations soldiers, as well as Afghan infantry units.

Harradine said 20 percent of the targeted territory had been searched since coalition troops began advancing Thursday. There has been no contact with enemy fighters and no injuries have been reported.

"They had a resupply at first light this morning of combat supplies, and as we speak they're pushing on through the area trying to clear it," Harradine said.

He said local residents the troops were coming across appeared friendly, and were telling coalition forces that no al-Qaida or Taliban forces were in the area.

"Of course we have to use this information wisely. They could be under duress to say that, they could be saying that for a decoy or indeed they could be friendly and there are none there," Harradine said.

He said the troops were moving with Afghan interpreters and were carrying leaflets explaining the aim of the operation and how locals could help.

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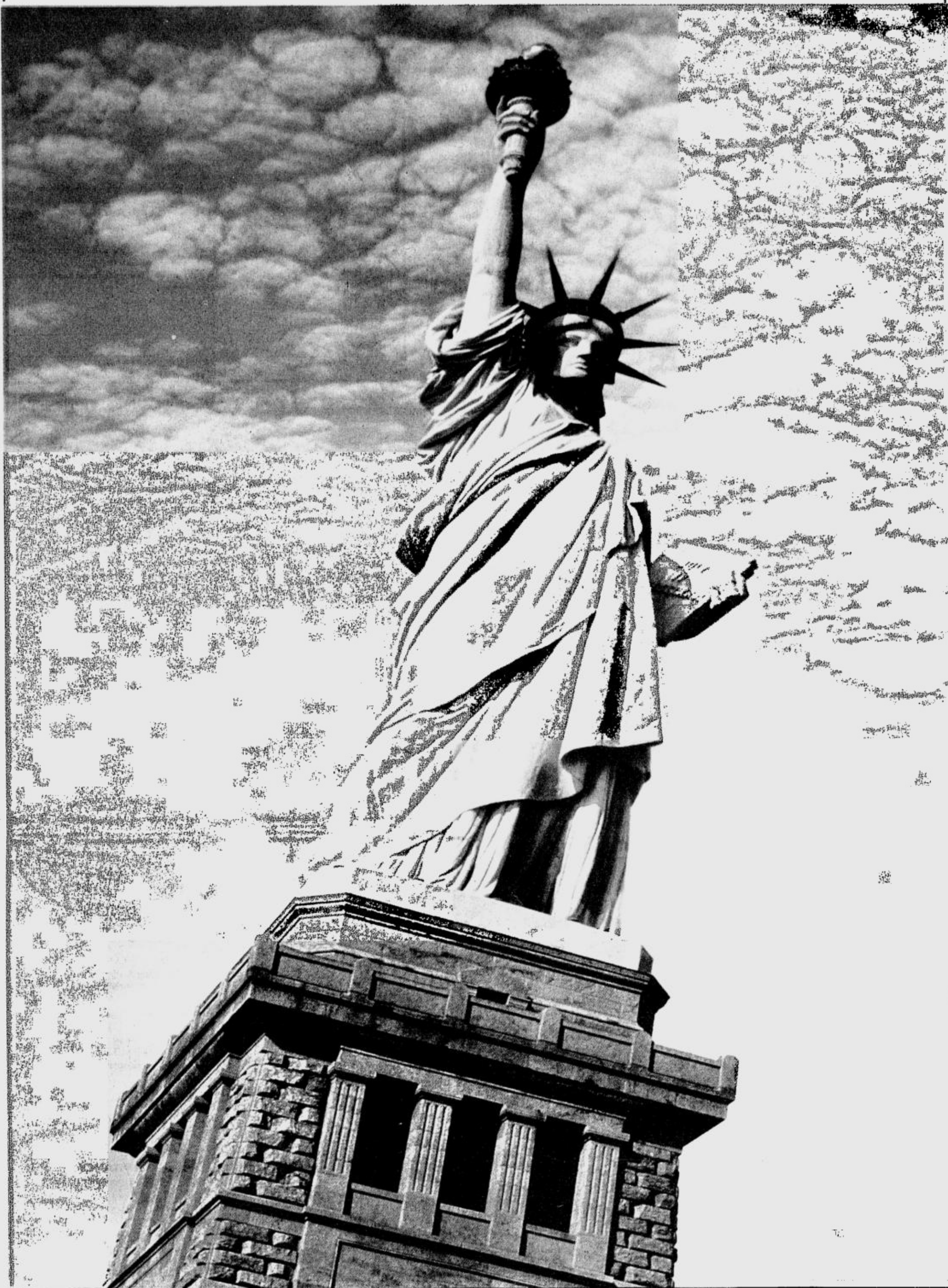
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'DOMESTIC TERROR'

Rural US hit by pipe bomb blasts

CHICAGO—Five people were injured on Friday when seven pipe bombs exploded in mailboxes in rural Illinois and Iowa in what the FBI called an act of domestic terrorism.

Postal Service officials said the bombs—accompanied by anti-government messages—hurt four postal workers and a mailbox owner, but none of the injuries was life-threatening.

One person suffered an eye injury and another received thumb and shoulder wounds.

Two other pipe bombs, found in Iowa mailboxes, failed to detonate and were being rendered safe, authorities said.

The Postal Inspection Service, which is coordinating the investigation, said the bombs were made

of steel pipes, each with a 9-volt battery attached.

All the bombs appeared to have been planted in the mailboxes and did not arrive through the mail, the officials said.

"It appears the explosive devices were intended to detonate when they were removed from the mailboxes," Postal Service representative Linda Jensen told a news conference in Des Moines.

The FBI, on heightened alert after the Sept. 11 attacks and deadly doses of anthrax sent through the mail last fall, described the mailbox bombings as "domestic terrorism."

"We looked at the letters that accompanied these devices and are viewing it as a domestic terrorism incident," FBI special agent James Bogner said.

He said the letters contained "general anti-government rhetoric."

"My understanding is that they are all the same, similar letters, similar information," Bogner said. The letters warned of future "attention-getters," and were signed "someone who cares."

Jensen said people should be very cautious when opening their mailboxes. "(The bombs) are accompanied by a clear plastic bag that contains a typewritten letter full of anti-government propaganda," she said. "If such material is discovered by a postal customer or a postal carrier, please, please do not touch the item or slam the box door."

Acting Chief Postal Inspector Jim Rowan said people should stop and look before removing mail from their mailboxes. "If you see a pipe in your mailbox, do not touch it or move it at all," Rowan said in a statement.

"The bombs explode when they are moved," he added, telling people to call police or the postal service if they found one. "And keep everyone away from the mailbox."

Bogner said there could be other devices yet to be discovered. Mail carriers in the area were recalled from their routes.

Mail delivery was suspended through Saturday in the affected area within a 240-km radius of Davenport, Iowa, along the Mississippi River.

Reuters



SOUTH Korean quarantine officers throw live piglets, taken from a farm suffering from an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, into a hole prior to burying them alive in Ansung, about 60 km south of Seoul May 4.

REUTERS

Foot-and-mouth strikes South Korean livestock

SEOUL—South Korea confirmed Saturday an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease that prompted authorities to order the slaughter of thousands of pigs, two years after the deadly livestock ailment devastated the country's pork exports.

Amid fears that the disease was spreading, agriculture officials clamped down on movements of livestock and instructed the nation's pig and cattle farmers to fumigate their facilities.

"We have a strict ban on any movement of livestock in areas surrounding the stricken farms," said Kim Chang-sup, an official at Seoul's Agriculture Ministry. "Those who wish to move their animals in other areas will go through precautions, such as fumigating the animals in the presence of officials."

The ministry confirmed that foot-and-mouth disease killed 280 pigs that died earlier this week with blisters in their hooves and mouths at a farm near Ansung, 100 km south of the capital, Seoul.

About 10,000 pigs were slaughtered in the area to prevent the

disease from spreading.

Also Saturday, the ministry determined that 50 pigs in a farm at Jinchun, a town 20 km south of Ansung, were also infected with foot-and-mouth, which spreads rapidly among cloven-hoofed animals such as cows and pigs but is not dangerous to humans.

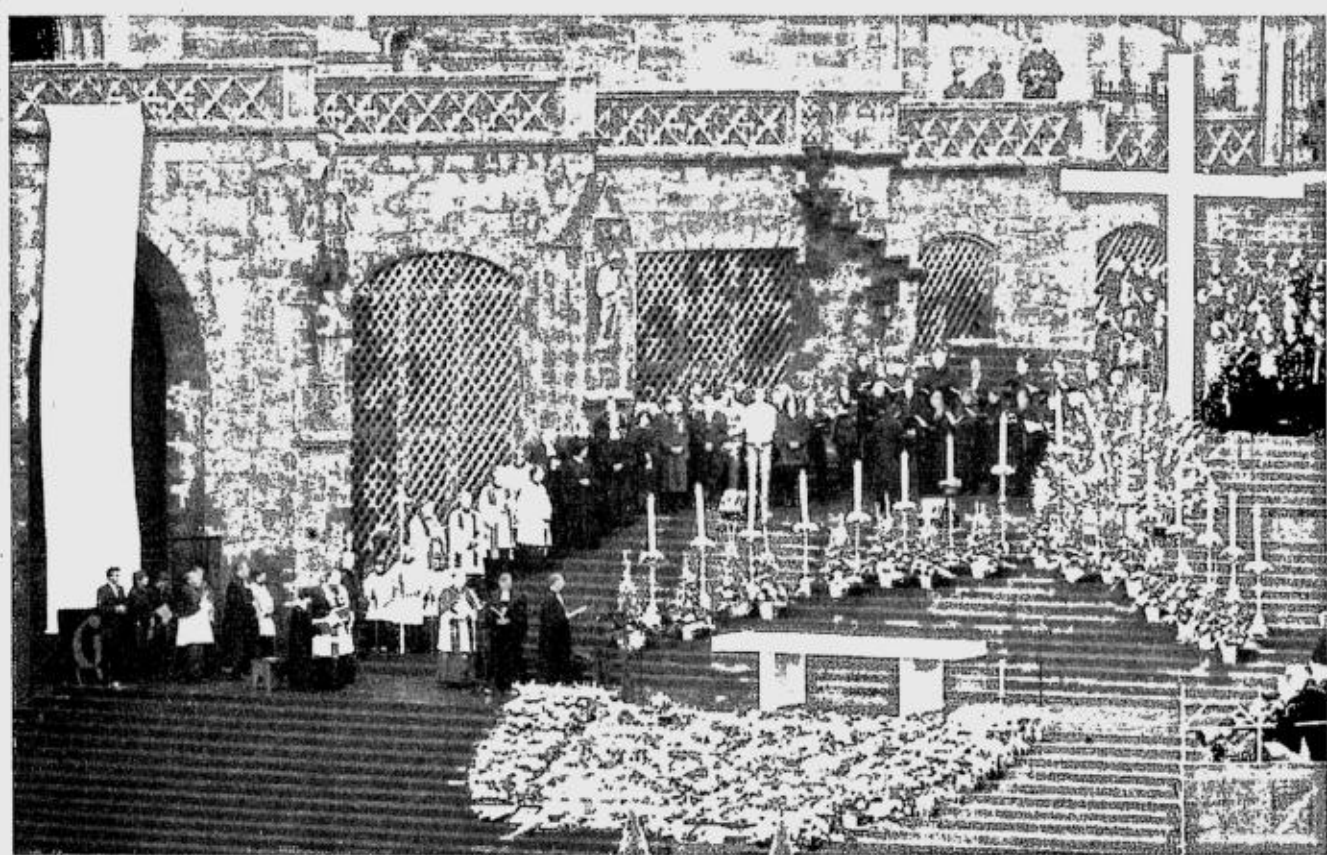
"We will slaughter all 1,000 pigs in the farm at Jinchun, and we are trying to determine how many more pigs we should kill in the surrounding area," Kim said.

Local television footage showed soldiers and health officials fumigating farms and spraying decontaminants on vehicles entering villages.

News of the outbreak came just as neighboring Japan had begun lifting a ban on South Korean pork that was imposed after the disease struck some farms two years ago.

The Japanese government responded Saturday by slapping a provisional ban on imports of pork, beef, mutton and meat products from South Korea, said Hiroyuki Otomo, an official at Tokyo's Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry.

AP



16 CANDLES FOR 16 SHOOTING VICTIMS

Sixteen candles, flowers and a white cross are placed on the steps of Erfurt cathedral during an official memorial May 3 for the 16 victims of a shooting at the Gutenberg secondary school one week ago. Robert Steinhäuser, an expelled 19-year-old student shot and killed 16 people at his former school before turning a gun on himself on April 26. Tens of thousands of people attended the memorial service.

REUTERS

HK church sex scandal expands

HONG KONG—A leading Catholic priest said Saturday that the Church had received two more cases of complaints of child sex abuse following earlier revelations this week that three priests had abused children in their care.

Father Lawrence Lee Len told reporters that the Church had received two more complaints.

"The image of the Church will undoubtedly be affected but we will just have to face this matter," he said. The Church had launched investigations into the alleged cases, he added.

Hong Kong police said they would meet with Catholic Church leaders to investigate revelations this week that three priests had sexually abused children in their care and that church authorities had failed to inform the police.

Police had contacted the Catholic diocese and wanted to follow up on the cases "as soon as possible," a spokesperson said. Officers had heard no information on these further two cases and would inquire into the matter, she added.

Father Lawrence admitted the Church offered financial aid to the victims of the abuse but insisted this was not intended as "hush money" to keep them quiet.

AFP

Doubts hang over release of Suu Kyi from house arrest

RANGOON—Expectations that the world's most famous political prisoner, Aung San Suu Kyi, is about to be freed from 19 months of house arrest in Burma have become clouded by growing doubts among pro-democracy opposition activists.

Burma has been abuzz all week with feverish speculation that the 56-year-old Nobel peace laureate was about to be released after striking a deal with the ruling junta in a break-

through after years of political stalemate.

Senior leaders of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) say she told them this week she expected to be released within days following secret meetings with the ruling junta.

But the military government has been silent on the expected release and Suu Kyi's home on University Avenue in Rangoon was still blocked off on Saturday

by barricades and a "No Entry" sign.

Every day, scores of opposition activists have crammed into the dilapidated headquarters of the NLD waiting for word. So far, they have heard nothing.

Political sources said no developments were expected at the weekend and Suu Kyi's release would not happen before Monday at the earliest. They said the deal appeared to have been held up by haggling over whether her

release would be unconditional.

Suu Kyi spent a previous spell in house arrest from 1989 to 1995 and her release then was marked with jubilant scenes as large crowds thronged the street outside her residence.

Diplomats say the junta wants to avoid a repeat, and has been trying to reach agreement with Suu Kyi that she will keep a low profile after her release. They said this might be a sticking point in the talks to secure her freedom.

"The military regime is very reluctant for an unconditional release," Sann Aung, a minister in a shadow government set up by exiled opposition politicians, said in Bangkok.

"They're still bargaining."

The release of Suu Kyi is among the top demands of the international community, which has isolated Burma and imposed economic sanctions on the impoverished country in a bid to force political change.

Reuters



BODY AND PAINT WORK NEEDED

A work by Spanish artist Miguel Barcelo called "Mobili" is exhibited among 130 other sculptures, paintings and ceramics until June 20 at the Maeght Foundation in Saint-Paul-de-Vence in the south of France.

AFP

Bangladesh ferry sinks; hundreds feared dead

DHAKA—A ferry carrying about 500 passengers sank in a storm overnight in southern Bangladesh and officials fear hundreds may have died in strong river currents.

Divers found two bodies and pulled more than 70 survivors from the turbulent Meghna River on Saturday and were keeping their fingers crossed for news of more survivors.

It was not clear what caused the accident or whether the ferry was overloaded as is common in the vast waterways of Bangladesh.

Survivors said the triple-decked M.V. Salahuddin-2 sank at around midnight on Friday on its way to Patuakhali from Dhaka. It went down near Shatnal, 170 km south of the capital, officials said.

There are no phone lines in the area.

"We can only get more information from people coming back from there or via police wireless," one official at nearby Chandpur said.

Police and reporters said the bodies of two victims—a woman and a child—had been recovered and more than 70 people had been pulled alive from the river.

Some people managed to swim ashore, police officer Mohammad Kauser said without giving a number.

Kauser, quoting a survivor, said the ferry was carrying about 500 passengers when it went down in high winds and strong currents. Local fishermen were helping in the rescue effort, he said.

Reuters

Survivor Saddam shows no sign of retiring even at 65

By Ezzedine Said

BAGHDAD—President Saddam Hussein may have reached the age of 65, but the strongman of Iraq shows no signs of retiring despite a decade of UN sanctions and US threats to overthrow his regime.

Rarely seen in public today, Saddam is nonetheless omnipresent across the country in

giant portraits, statues and his "commandments" to the people, which are plastered everywhere.

Celebrated with mass official pomp last Sunday, the 65th birthday of the man all Iraqis refer to as "Mr. President" has become the biggest party on the national calendar.

His photos adorn the front pages of newspapers everyday

and the slightest pronouncement or activity becomes the object of adoring comment and analysis in the media, all of which is under total state control.

Fearful security services monitor everything and employ the full power of the omnipotent state apparatus to repress the slightest criticism or ambiguity, attributed usually to "American and Zionist enemies."

Saddam Hussein, in power since 1979 and a survivor of wars with Iran and a US-led coalition after invading Kuwait in 1990, appears in robust health.

He has even become the latest literary talent of a nation which once boasted among the best in education and culture the Arab world could offer.

He has published three novels recently, all anonymous but

quickly attributed to the president's prolific pen.

"Zabibah and the King," a political morality tale and a best seller, was adapted to the stage for his birthday and of course won the stamp of an official success.

For a man who heads a regime which "today thinks only of its own survival," as one Western diplomat in Baghdad said, the es-

calation of violence in the Palestinian territories could not have come at a better time.

Saddam has donned the cloak of champion of the Palestinian cause and hit the headlines with his generosity. The family of every Palestinian killed by Israeli forces receives \$25,000 from Iraq, which has gone as far as to halt oil exports since April 8 in protest at Israel's actions.

AFP

Boston archdiocese rejects \$30-M payment for sex victims

BOSTON—Reeling from child sex abuse scandals, the Roman Catholic Church in Boston rejected a proposed settlement of up to \$30 million with 86 alleged victims of a defrocked priest on Friday as another cleric agreed to return to the area to face charges of raping a boy.

The decision came after state legislators passed a law ordering clergy to report cases of suspected abuse to social workers, following allegations the church has known about priest molesters but failed to keep them away from children.

The Boston Archdiocese's financial council threw out the settlement with the victims of defrocked priest John Geoghan, fearing it would use up funds also needed to compensate an increasing number of other alleged victims in the area. The council rejected the plea

of Boston Cardinal Bernard Law, the senior US Catholic prelate, to approve the deal.

Molestation allegations against Geoghan, who is serving a prison term for fondling a 10-year-old boy, triggered the sexual abuse crisis that has roiled the US Catholic Church and reverberated to the Vatican. More than 130 people accuse him of molesting them during his 30 years in the Boston area.

The archdiocese, which serves 2 million Catholics, also faces a suit involving a 71-year-old priest.

Paul Shanley, who is alleged to have repeatedly raped a boy for years in the 1980s, sometimes in the church confessional in his Boston-suburb parish, waived on Friday his right to fight extradition from California.



RETIRED priest Paul Shanley

The priest, who was subdued and sober-faced as he wordlessly signed waiver papers in San Diego Superior Court, will be held in isolation until his extradition to Massachusetts.

In both Boston cases, Law allegedly knew about the men's sexual problems. He has refused

to resign, angering many Catholics who suspect the Church of covering up abuse.

The financial council's decision was the first time since Law came to Boston in 1984 it did not grant the required canon law consent for a settlement, the archdiocese said.

David Smith, archdiocese chancellor, said the council expressed "grave concern" about the deal as dozens of other victims stepped forward with claims against its priests.

The decision shocked Mitchell Garabedian, a lawyer for the victims. "This is disgusting. This is disgraceful," Garabedian told Boston's WHDH-TV Channel 7.

In San Diego, Shanley was arrested on Thursday at his home on child rape charges filed in Massachusetts.

Reuters



REUTERS/ROBERT KNUDSEN/LYNDON B. JOHNSON LIBRARY
LADY Bird Johnson, wife of the late US President Lyndon B. Johnson, at the White House in this Oct. 20, 1967 file photo.

Former US first lady Johnson suffers stroke

AUSTIN, Texas—Lady Bird Johnson, wife of the late US President Lyndon B. Johnson, was in intensive care in a Texas hospital and unable to speak on Friday after suffering a mild stroke, her physician said.

The former first lady, now 89, was rushed to Seton Hospital from her Austin home on Thursday evening when she had problems speaking and swallowing.

Cardiovascular surgeon Dr. Rodney Horton said it was not known if her speech difficulties would be permanent. "It does appear that she has had a mild stroke," he told reporters. "It does appear that she has lost the power of speech. We don't know how permanent this is... or how severe."

"At the present time, she is fully understanding of what is being said. She can nod appropriately, but is unable to find the words," he said.

Johnson, who suffered a mild stroke in 1993 and has had heart problems in recent years, was expected to remain in the hospital for a few



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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

source: pagasa

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Laaoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Togaylay	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 27°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/05/04/02

ROUNDUP

2 NPA rebels killed

LEGAZPI CITY—Two communist rebels died in an encounter with Army soldiers at 11:30 a.m., Friday, at Barangay Malakbang in Paracale, Camarines Norte, a military report said. The soldiers, belonging to the 31st Infantry Battalion, acted on a tip of residents about the presence of 10 armed men in the village, they said. The New People's Army rebels withdrew in different directions after the brief clash, leaving behind their dead comrades. The government troops also recovered two M-16 rifles.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Anti-drug campaign

LEGAZPI CITY—Government and police officials in Bicol have intensified their campaign against illegal drugs in the region after holding a conference on Friday in Daet, Camarines Norte. The campaign, dubbed "Kilos Laya Laban sa Droga" or Kill Droga is led by Kill Droga regional chair Tito Sarion and Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., regional police director.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fight vs jueteng

LEGAZPI CITY—Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., regional police director, has ordered his intelligence chief to investigate allegations of Naga Mayor Jesse Robredo that jueteng continues to proliferate in his city. In a letter to Galang, Robredo noted that the winning numbers were being drawn in Camaligan, Camarines Sur. Galang vowed to file administrative action against police officers found tolerating the illegal numbers game in their areas.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Girl raped, killed

SAN PASCUAL, Batangas—A 7-year-old girl was found dead with stab wounds in the chest and belly in Barangay Mataas na Lupa, this town, on Thursday. The victim, a kindergarten pupil, was found lying naked in a pool of blood. An autopsy revealed that the girl was raped before she was killed. Police said a 19-year-old retardate, who lives in the same village, was a suspect. The victim's playmate, who requested anonymity, said she saw the suspect take the victim to the forest after playing.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Trader's body found

LOBO, Batangas—The National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force based in Camp Crame exhumed on Wednesday the body of a missing Chinese-Filipino businessman from a dried creek in Barangay Bignay, this town. Chan Lin Luy, 37, also known as Johnny Chan, was last seen by three of his male helpers in the family's warehouse at the Riverside Subdivision, Barangay San Roque in Rosario town. The kidnappers had reportedly demanded a P15-million ransom. The amount was lowered to P500,000.

Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Youth camp in Boac

BOAC, Marinduque—About 200 youth leaders from churches in Quezon, Marinduque, Laguna, Batangas, Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro participated in the 7th Quemarlaboro Yes Camp at the St. Mary's College Compound here. The yearly event aims to mold young leaders who will help their fellow youths use their energies productively. Regional youth director Fr. Pedro Fernando Jr. challenged the participants to be living examples of being the "salt and light of the world."

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 rebels yield

CALAPAN CITY—Two New People's Army commanders have surrendered to the government for the sake of their families. Eusebio "Ka Lawin" Luna, 37, and Joseph "Ka Edro" Diano, 27, of the Lucio de Guzman Command are both residents of Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro. Gov. Bartolome Marasigan Sr. promised them security and financial aid.

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon

CA to probe 4 Baguio judges

By Vincent Cabreza

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Court of Appeals is hearing this week the charges of impropriety, petty graft and immorality filed against four Baguio regional trial court judges, court insiders said.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. had turned over to the appellate court the documents obtained by a fact-finding team that looked into the allegations hurled by Judge Ruben Ayson against Executive Judge Antonio Reyes Jr. and Judges Clarence Villanueva, Amado Caguioa and Edilberto Claravall.

"It is the Court of Appeals, which is procedurally tasked with hearing and investigating these matters. (Davide) facilitated a fact-finding mission when he sent Justice Christopher Lock, Supreme Court deputy administrator, to Baguio to review (Ayson's allegations),"

one of the accused judges told the Inquirer.

Ayson enumerated a litany of anomalies, ranging from adultery to petty graft and even a trivial traffic incident allegedly involving the four judges.

He accused one of the judges of concealing an adulterous affair and a child out of wedlock, and discussed how another judge tolerated the collection of stenographer fees in the course of processing ex-parte hearings.

He also suggested that Reyes had been gathering a lion's share of controversial cases.

At one point, Ayson accused unnamed judges of gambling and drinking, and argued that he made the revelations because "it was time to clean the judiciary of the corrupt and immoral."

One of the accused judges said a March directive from Davide, which transferred the case to the CA, had suggested that Lock's fact-finding mission could not find verifiable evidence to prove most of Ayson's charges.

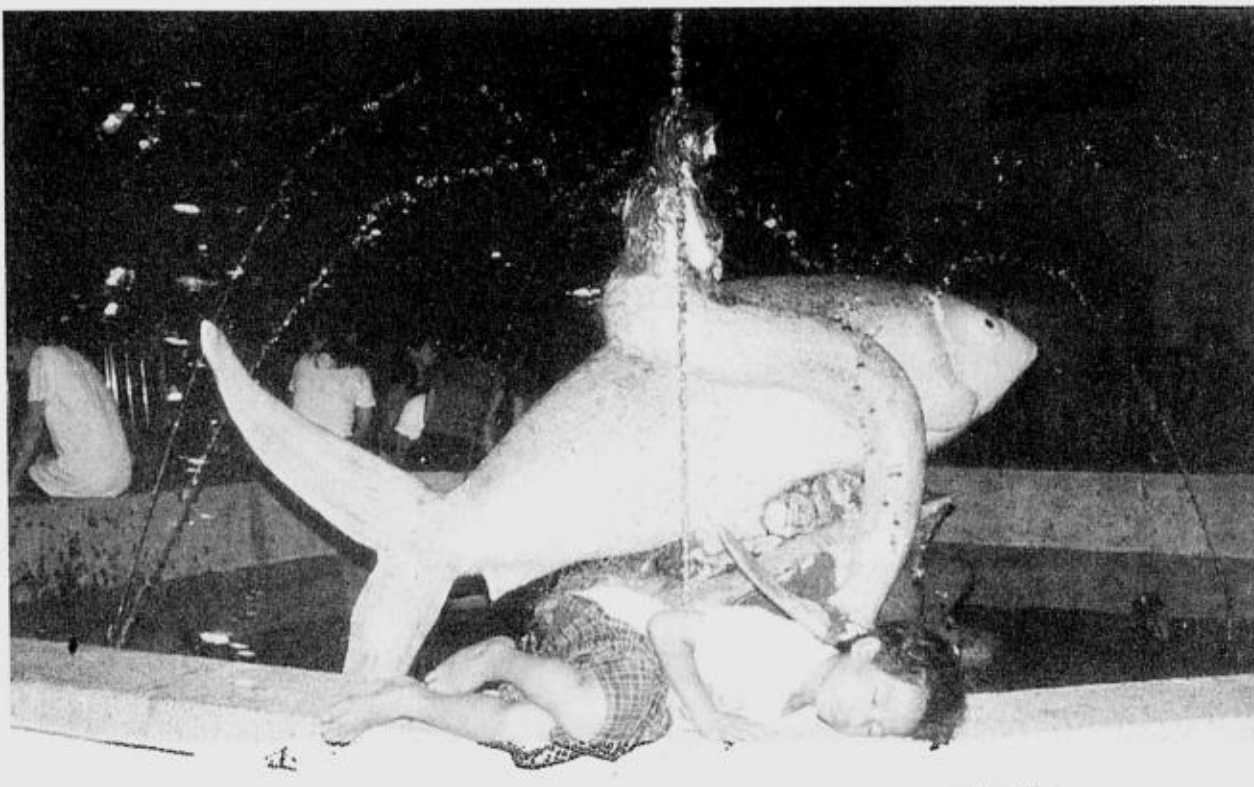
Integrated Bar of the Philippines members, who were earlier interviewed by the Inquirer, said they guided Lock through "a mud work of rumors" that Ayson supposedly capitalized on in accusing the four judges of varying degrees of petty graft and ethical offenses.

"From the lawyers' standpoint, this

is clearly a personal feud that had blown out of proportion... We know about rumors of adultery and gambling, but we had to testify based on facts. And to date, there are no facts to support any (of Ayson's allegations). We could not very well acknowledge the veracity of rumors," said lawyer Abelardo Estrada, IBP Baguio-Benguet president.

But the rumors were "stinging." According to Estrada, Lock had wanted a personal verification from the lawyers about a child, who may have routinely visited the chambers of one judge.

"I could not do that. All I remember is that a child comes over, and I am sure it is (the judge's) genuine child. I don't know of any other child out-of-wedlock although that is the stuff of many rumors here," he said.



DAGUPAN LANDMARK

A street child sleeps at Dagupan City's landmark, a fountain featuring a sea mermaid riding on its famous "bangus" (milkfish).

DENR team seizes P1.8-M 'hot' lumber

SAN MARIANO, Isabela—Environment officials seized P1.85 million worth of illegally cut lumber from several sawmills and houses in Barangay Sta. Filomena here on Thursday.

A joint team of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, the Santiago City police and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Quezon City and Isabela conducted the raid.

It invited for questioning the owners of the seized lumber. The owners were Amadeo Yap, Rodolfo Victorino, Rogie Miranda, brother of San Mariano Mayor Jesus Miranda; and Rodel Costales, a former town councilor.

Authorities seized at least 51,000 board feet of lumber, comprising 6,000 board feet of narra and 45,000 board feet of common hardwood species like red and white *lauan* and *gmelina*.

Residents welcomed the confiscation, saying illegal logging in Cagayan Valley has been rampant despite a logging moratorium.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez ordered an intensified anti-illegal logging campaign in the wake of complaints that some officials are not doing anything about the problem. **Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Fire hits Negros reforestation project, destroys young trees

DUMAGUETE CITY—Young trees planted in 110 hectares of a reforestation site went up in smoke in last month's rash of fires that hit the area in Sitio Tacalan, Barangay Sab-ahan, Bais City, 45 kilometers north of here.

Efren Rumbaoa, forestry management officer of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) here, said some P2 million worth of trees, mostly mangium and coffee and nearly a meter tall, was destroyed.

Rumbaoa said the cause of the fire was not yet known. The summer heat has made some trees susceptible to burning, he said.

He alerted reforestation contractors to be vigilant against forest fires.

The burned area was part of the P40-million 2,000-hectare reforestation project at the boundary of Bais and Tanjay City.

The DENR contracted the project to a local farmers' association in 1997 and was to be

turned over to it next year.

Rumbaoa said the contractor would be responsible for rehabilitating the burned area. He, however, said the DENR has a contingency fund that could be used by the contractor for replanting activities.

Although it was only in Tacalan where the forest fires broke out this year, Rumbaoa said the reforestation contractors should not take chances in view of the present dry season.

In the early 1990s, Rumbaoa said several reforestation projects were also burned during the dry season, which cost the contractors and the government millions of pesos in losses.

He also said contractors should immediately get in touch with his office in case of a forest fire so that the Cenro personnel, who are trained in forest fire-fighting, can immediately respond. **Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau**

Fire kills woman, 2 daughters

BUTUAN CITY—A seven-month pregnant woman and her two daughters were killed when a fire gutted their house inside a compound in Barangay 6, Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte, on Friday.

Fire authorities said Kayron Sarep, 38, and her daughters—Jasmine, 8, and Sonia Sarep, 7—were sound asleep when the fire broke out at around 1:30 a.m.

The fire razed four other houses. It was not clear where Sarep's husband was at the time of the incident.

The charred bodies of the victims were recovered in the debris shortly after the fire was put off.

SFO2 Dionesio Paduganan, chief of the Cabadbaran fire station, said the victims could have tried to get out of the burning house but died of suffocation.

Paduganan estimated damage at P500,000.

He said the fire was caused by faulty electrical wiring. **Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Only a few remembered Davao liberation

By Ayan C. Mellejor

PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—May 3 was no ordinary day for Davaoños.

It was the day the city was liberated from Japanese forces more than 50 years ago.

Except for a few surviving war veterans, nobody appeared to remember the important date. Not even city officials.

"Our liberation has been forgotten. The city failed to celebrate, except for the surviving veterans," lamented Davao histo-

rian Ernesto Corcino.

He said it pained him that the fight of the Davaoños for democracy and freedom has been forgotten.

Only the veterans, most of them aged 75 to 85, celebrated the 57th anniversary of the city's liberation with a parade.

Elsewhere, the event passed unnoticed.

Davao was a springboard for the liberation of the Philippines 57 years ago, Corcino said.

"Davao City was a major Japanese base for Southeast Asia. The

allied forces had to put up a watch station to keep track of the Japanese Army's activities," he said.

The longest and the bloodiest phase of the campaign to liberate the Philippines from the Japanese forces happened here, he added.

The battle was the final test of the Davaoños' courage and endurance in defending the people's freedom from the enemy, he explained.

Davao, which is often known as Davaokuo, was home to about

25,000 Japanese settlers before World War II.

"In the next three years (since the Japanese occupation began), the Davaoños bled, countless civilians were killed or missing, more than the number of our untrained, poorly armed soldiers. The Davaoños lost their lives... not so much by war action but due to retaliation for long held personal grudges... vengeance derived from pre-war land conflicts and personal harm unforgotten," Corcino recalled.



SISTER CITIES

Mayors Lito Atienza (left) of Manila and Arturo Radaza of Lapulapu City shake hands after sealing a sister-city tie-up. The event was witnessed by Jane Paredes, Smart public affairs manager for the Visayas and Mindanao.

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandyrel • Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Trouble in the hospital

Dayrit's appointment stirs controversy

By Ryan D. Rosaura
Ozamiz City

POLITICAL top guns in Misamis Occidental are closing ranks to pressure Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit to reconsider his appointment of "an outsider" as chief of the Mayor Hilarion A. Ramiro Sr. Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (MHARS-RTTH).

Public sentiment is also mounting for the hospital's current officer in charge (OIC).

In a consultation held at the hospital last week, provincial leaders assured the dismayed employees that they would put up a strong lobby to convince Dayrit to reassess his decision.

Dayrit appointed Dr. Romeo Ong, a career officer in public health service and a Zamboangueno, to take over the MHARS-RTTH. Ong has been in government service for more than 20 years and is at present OIC of the Jose Rizal Memorial Hospital in Dapitan City.

Black armbands

Ong's appointment eased out Dr. Jesus Martin Sanciango III, who has been serving as OIC following the retirement last year of the hospital's erstwhile chief, Dr. Jose Villanueva. Hailed for his charismatic leadership, Sanciango is favored by the majority of hospital personnel, especially the 40 medical staffers who have been wearing black armbands since last week as a sign of protest.

Dr. Proceso Mintalar, who acts as spokesperson of the medical staff, said Dayrit's appointment of Ong was an insult to the capability of the locality to produce leaders who can manage the hospital professionally.

"We felt robbed of a leader who is more qualified to lead the hospital because of technicalities in the appointment process," lamented Mintalar, who gave assurance that their protest action will not disrupt hospital operation.

"Why not a local?" asked Dr. Nilo Caballo, head of the radiology department. "If this practice of giving priority to outsiders continue, there will be no incentive for local doctors to strive for leadership excellence," he added.

Sanciango failed to get the appointment, according to several doctors privy to the issue, supposedly because he lacks a degree in hospital administration.

Mintalar, however, retorted that Sanciango, both a diplomate and fellow in pediatrics, met the minimum qualification standard.

'Diplomacy'

Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos told the hospital staff that he and the province's congressional representatives, Herminia Ramiro and Ernie



MEDICAL staff members of the Mayor Hilarion A. Ramiro Sr. Regional Training and Teaching Hospital in Ozamiz City wear black armbands to protest the appointment of a new hospital chief.

RYAN D. ROSAURA

Clarete, would exhaust all "diplomatic means to convince Secretary Dayrit."

Ocampos sees a bright prospect for a turnaround in Dayrit's decision. He cited as example the decision of Malacañang to reverse its earlier decision to move the observance of Labor Day from May 1 to April 29 following a widespread uproar.

"So if only we can put across our message properly and explain our grievance more clearly, we might elicit a positive response," a confident Ocampos said.

Ramiro said she, Clarete and Ocampos, are planning to have an audience with Dayrit in order to discuss "a way out of this present crisis."

"It must be a win-win formula that is designed to finally end it (leadership impasse)," she said.

No rush

Ramiro's late husband, Hilarion Jr., was a career officer of the health department who rose to become its secretary under the Ramos administration. While serving as congressman, Hilarion Jr. chaired the House committee on health.

"When all these fail, that would be the time to talk of other strategies," Ocampos explained.

Celebrating the word

SOMETHING caught my attention in my schoolmate Monching Sarabosing's piece titled, "Arts and culture on the islands" published in "Dugong Mindanaw" last Sunday.

He talked about facilitating an arts workshop organized by women's groups in a fishing village in Surigao del Sur and how he had reservations on whether "the villagers would warm up to the idea of writing."

I've been so engrossed in reading novels from many countries in the last two years where my mentor Cirilo could draw questions from for my written exams that I haven't heard poetry recited or read much of it lately, except the works of Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill and Anna Akhmatova.

And the new poems I've written, out of pique, have been deleted from my PC. The fiction bug, you know, has bitten me and I get more ambitious each day.

How refreshing it feels that, in spite of all the religious bigotry in Mindanao, kidnappings, bombings and much politicking among our national leaders, we learn that among the grassroots communities—the "other audience"—the word was celebrated beside the sea, not in some bourgeois environment and after Valentine's Day's over and done with.

Like those of other cultures in the world, our epics prove the oral beginnings of poetry. The singing or recitation of a people's history, customs and traditions is part-ritual in communal activities depicting a way of life.

I was in the audience once when an epic fragment was chanted in Bukidnon, and I tell you it was as unforgettable as it was a mysterious experience. The word proves our being human and to witness "culture caught in the mouth" touches reality and imagination, transforming both reciter and listener into the recreation of a magical moment.

So nobody should worry whether a group will go literary or not. Getting a college education often results in the person's thinking that writing is better than oral expression. On this subject, Walter Ong said it best in his book, "Orality and Literacy: The Technologizing of the Word" that "oral expression can exist and mostly has existed without any writing at all, writing never without orality."

When the public perceives that poetry is only for the amorous, then that trivializes poetry as literary art. And if poets have to write, especially about the people's plight, it should be for the "other audience" as well and not just for the reading public who live in cities and seem happy seeing poetry published as space fillers in magazines.

THE AUTHOR is INQUIRER's correspondent for Iligan City. She teaches literature at the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology and is pursuing a Doctorate in Fine Arts, major in Creative Writing, at the De La Salle University.

DUGONG MINDANAW

Christine Godinez-Ortega

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country. — Ed.

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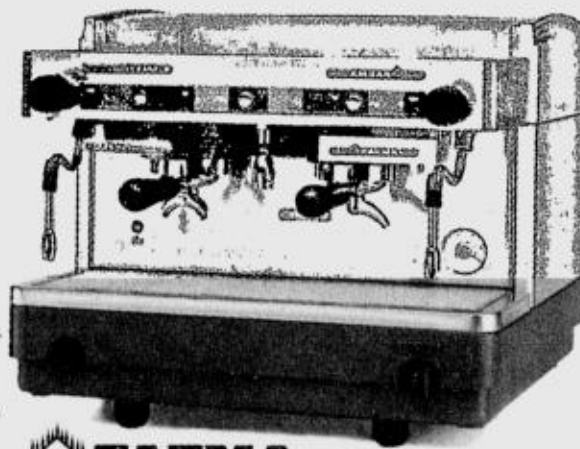


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'Insecure, inept, paranoid'

From page A1

recent events had drastically changed the social and political backdrop and threatened to destroy his party's "constructive collaboration" with the administration.

Angara said the administration seemed to be more pre-occupied with battling the phantoms of destabilization, rather than pursuing crucial reforms necessary to move the country forward.

"Our people have grown increasingly tired and impatient with the Arroyo government's insecurity and ineptitude," he said.

"We cannot put a stamp of legitimacy on the acts of repression and terror tactics of the Arroyo administration. We cannot pretend that everything is normal in the political environment," he added.

Angara clarified that the LDP was not involved in extra-constitutional movements to oust Ms. Macapagal and the present government. The party wants to do so in the 2004 elections, Angara said.

One exercise

Pimentel said his party wanted to keep its distance from Malacañang so it could speak out more passionately and clearly about what it perceived to be in the national interest.

He pointed out that the political summit was not the "end-all and be-all" of all political activities in the country.

"This is just one exercise, an attempt mainly motivated by the desire of Speaker Jose de Venecia probably to project to the people that there are certain matters that we have to tackle like amending the Constitution," Pimentel said.

He said that the issue of amending the Constitution was the best thing that can be said of the political summit.

Pimentel maintained that the task of amending the Constitution can still be pursued even without a summit.

He urged the President to reach out to the opposition in the face of the reported plot to arrest Angara and Sen. Panfilo Lacson had the Labor Day celebration become violent.

He said the President must assure Angara and Lacson that there was no such attempt to arrest or harass them.

He said, however, that such assurance must be "clearly stated and sincerely delivered."

Sen. Gregorio Honasan said the summit's hidden agenda was to tie the hands of all political parties and personalities to force them to wait until 2004 to challenge her presidency.

"This will give GMA an undue advantage in the political intramurals leading to the 2004

No free lunch at the summit

By Juliet L. Javellana

THERE are no free lunches, not even for the country's political elite who gathered for the first summit of Philippine political parties.

The 21 political parties and P500,000 each had to shell out between P500,000 and P200,000 per party to undertake the three-day "First Philippine Political Parties Conference" at the historic Manila Hotel.

Five delegates were allowed per party—the presidents, chairs and secretaries general—and the excess delegates were asked to pay P5,000 each.

The summit cost at least P3 million, according to House Deputy Secretary General Noel Albano.

Albano said that as agreed upon by the summit convenors, the Lakas, NPC and LDP paid P500,000 each while the LP and PDP-Laban were asked to give P300,000 each. NP, Kampi and PDSP pledged P200,000 each.

The six regional parties and the nine party-list groups paid P20,000 each.

The contributions were used to cover expenses for the venue.

The food alone cost P800,000.

The LDP pulled out on the eve of the summit. It could not be immediately known if the LDP had already paid.

The amount reportedly went to pay for the conference rooms of the Manila Hotel, including its Centennial Hall where the plenary meetings were held and the smaller rooms where six workshops were held.

Some delegates were also billeted in the hotel.

The amount was also used to pay for the breakfast, lunches, dinners and snacks served for the three-day summit.

presidential elections since she holds the instruments of power," Honasan said in a press briefing.

Sen. Tessie Oreta said that the Macapagal administration must do away with strong-arm tactics to stifle legitimate dissent and instead

effect confidence-building measures to appease an angry public.

Paranoid

"Malacañang should push unity and reconciliation only if it would tolerate and even promote an environment healthy for legitimate dissent rather than resorting to prancing (paranoid) politics," Oreta said.

She said the Senate minority had shown its sincerity and resolve to cooperate with the ruling coalition as far as the swift passage of Malacañang-endorsed bills were concerned.

One of these, she said, was the Anti-Money Laundering Law, which was sponsored by Lacson, an opposition senator.

Apparently in deference to the President, political parties attending the political summit agreed that any constitutional amendments should not cover the 2004 elections.

Former Rep. Emigdio "Ding" Tanjuatco, chair of the workshop group which tackled electoral, party system and constitutional reforms, said there was "absolute unanimity" on the need to "reform" the charter.

But his group recommended that the revision should not be made earlier than the 2004 presidential elections.

"The reason for this is because we do not want any apprehension that this will interfere in the 2004 elections," Tanjuatco reported to the plenary of 21 political parties on the second day of the 3-day summit.

Bias for con-con

Tanjuatco, secretary general of the President's party Kampi, did not say where the apprehensions come from.

Although the parties left it to Congress to call for either a constitutional convention or a constituent assembly to propose he changes, Tanjuatco said the "bias" was for a convention to do the job.

There was also a prevailing sentiment to shift to parliamentary form of government.

The parties also left it to Congress to decide whether the Constitution should be merely amended or revised entirely.

But Western Samar Rep. Antonio Eduardo Nachura, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, said a consensus has emerged that the charter should be revised, meaning overhauled, instead of instituting piecemeal amendments.

"Having a new form of government requires a revision although there are major provisions which should not be touched, including the bill of rights," Nachura said.

Another Abu leader falls

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Acting on a tip by villagers, authorities captured another key leader of the Abu Sayyaf in Barangay Sinubung here.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the military's Southern Command, yesterday confirmed the arrest of Sattar Yacub, who was recovering from a bullet wound, last Friday afternoon. Yacub carries a P1-million price for his capture.

A few hours earlier, authorities captured Abu Sayyaf leader Salip Abdullah, alias Sukarno Habib Yasin, in a raid in General Santos City.

"It's a big blow and big loss to the Abu Sayyaf," Cimatu said of the arrests.

Yacub, who is facing charges of kidnapping and serious illegal detention, is the 10th ranking leader of the bandit group to fall in government hands since last year. In July, Nadzmic Saabudula, alias Commander Global, who had a P5-million bounty, was bagged in General Santos.

At least 1,000 Abu Sayyaf members have been killed or captured since March 2000 when the bandits seized a priest and several teachers in Basilan. The priest, Rhoel Gallardo, was killed during a military rescue operation.

Yacub, who was based in Tuburan, Basilan, was captured in Mountainview Valley in Sinubung, Cimatu said.

He led an early morning attack in the city on April 29, which was thwarted by government troops, according to the Southcom chief. At least 13 bandits were killed during the clash.

Yacub was hit in the left leg and back, Cimatu said. "He was spotted by residents of Sinubung asking for help. The people immediately reported the presence of a wounded person to the police."

Supt. Felixberto Candado, regional police intelligence chief, said the barangay intelligence network (BIN) was instrumental in Yacub's arrest.

"The BIN reported his presence, so we managed to get him," Candado said.

Admission

In an interview with reporters, Yacub admitted that he partici-

pated in the abduction of 19 people, including an American couple, from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan and the June 2 siege of Lamitan town in Basilan.

But he said he was not involved in the mass hostage-taking incident in Tuburan and Sumisip towns, also in Basilan, on March 20, 2000.

He said he served as head of the party that welcomed Abu Sabaya, Abu Sayyaf spokesperson, and the Dos Palmas hostages in Basilan.

He said he had lost track of Sabaya, whose group keeps the American hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham.

"The last time we met was last month in the jungle of Maluso. He had the Burnhams and Ediborah Yap with him," he said in Filipino. Yap, a Filipino nurse, was seized during the Lamitan assault.

Joining MILF

Yacub said he and his followers had been planning to surrender at the time of the April 29 attack in the city.

He said he and 14 other Abu Sayyaf members left Tuburan on April 27 to finalize their membership in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front as a prelude to their surrender. He said he was advised to join the MILF by aides of Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin.

"The government does not accept the surrender of Abu Sayyaf members, so we decided to join the MILF so we can give up," Yacub said.

He said his group purposely went to Zamboanga to surrender, but they were fired upon by the military as they were approaching Barangay Talisayan in a motorized boat.

"We were ordered (by the soldiers) to stand up. Some of my companions did, and I joined them. They asked for our firearms. We had guns hidden in an ice case that we brought along," he said.

"Suddenly, they fired at us. Our boat caught fire, so we all jumped into the water. When the smoke cleared, I swam to the shore and reached the highway."

"It was then that I only felt a bullet wound in my leg. I didn't know where my companions were. I just thought of saving myself," Yacub said. **With a report from Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Troops kill Pentagon leader, 2 followers

From page A1

Pagalungan town at about 5:30 a.m., according to Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol said Saguile's death was a major breakthrough in the government's drive against kidnapping in the province and in Central Mindanao.

The province recently launched its "Zero Kidnapping in 2002" campaign aimed at going after kidnap groups victimizing prominent businessmen and citizens.

Last month, Italian Roman Catholic priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, 45, was freed after he was kidnapped by the Pentagon gang on Oct. 17 last year in Zamboanga del Sur. The circumstances surrounding his release or rescue were not clear. Pierantoni himself said that he was released after ransom was paid. The military insists he was rescued.

Last year, a Chinese engineer was killed and another wounded in a rescue attempt after the gang kidnapped both men.

Another victim, Pierre Belanger of Ottawa, Canada, was rescued two days before Christmas after two months in captivity.

As the soldiers approached the village, Saguile's group fired at them, triggering a running gun battle, Ando said.

"They were planning to launch kidnapping activities in Cotabato when our soldiers caught up with them," Ando told the Inquirer.

Ando said Army soldiers of the 40th Infantry Battalion recovered an M-16 rifle and several bullets from the fatalities.

An Agence France Presse report, quoting military sources, said seven of Saguile's companions escaped.

Ando said residents of Barangay Dungguan had earlier tipped the military of the presence of Saguile and eight others in the village.

The people have grown tired of armed skirmishes between soldiers and lawless groups in Barangay Dungguan, he said.

Saguile acted as keeper of some

of the five Chinese engineers whom the Pentagon abducted last year, Ando told radio dxMS here. The Chinese were working in the Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation project in Carmen, Cotabato.

Two of the victims died during a botched rescue operation in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, while two others escaped. The fifth victim was later released. The government said no ransom was paid.

Saguile carried a P250,000 price for his arrest.

He was tagged as the kidnapper of rice trader Martina Martin of Libungan, Cotabato, and Oscar Rasonable of Matalam town, also in Cotabato.

The bandit leader was also believed to be responsible for the abduction of businessmen Sixto Escudero and Pipao Ang of M'lang, Cotabato, and Jimmy Yap of Pikit, also in Cotabato.

In Digos City in Davao del Sur, five suspected members of the Pentagon, including three women, pleaded not guilty during their arraignment last Friday on charges of kidnapping the 25-year-old daughter of a wealthy car distributor in Davao City.

The suspects were identified as Norma Mualam, 41, a quack doctor who allegedly set up the kidnapping; Grace Dulay, 22; Geraldine Tagalog, 23; Ibrahim Dulay, 19; and Mohamad Omar, 26, all of Davao del Sur.

They were arraigned before Judge Hilario Mapayo Jr. of the Regional Trial Court Branch 19.

The five were among 15 suspected Pentagon members who were arrested during a military operation to rescue kidnap victim Maria Cecilia Bonifacio on Jan. 8.

The other accused, including Pentagon sub-leader Gerry Sandigan, 32, are set to be arraigned on June 3, after the police failed to bring them on time during Friday's arraignment. **Edwin O. Fernandez with reports from Joselle Badilla and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP and AP**

Covering war: Don't shoot the messenger

From page A1

This was the recommendation of Reporters sans Frontiers (Reporters without Borders) during the just-concluded, two-day conference of the World Press Freedom Day on Terrorism and Media, which was attended by 120 journalist-delegates from around the world.

In a paper presented through its Southeast Asia representative, Philippe Latour, the Paris-based Reporters sans Frontiers (RSF) enjoined media owners, publishers and editors to equip their reporters with an Afghan Explorer, the equivalent of a drone plane, a robot recently invented by the (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

media laboratory.

"This remote-controlled device on wheels could go and shoot videos of a battle at close range and even conduct interviews," the RSF paper said. "It might be a solution for journalists eager to cover danger areas without risking their lives."

However, Latour said that just like the satellite transmission devices a decade ago, the Afghan Explorer is not yet available on the market to the average journalist.

Helmets and bullet-proof vests will have to do in the meantime. But the helmets and bullet-proof vests should be in non-military colors.

Editors also have a responsibility to provide "communication

equipment, including locator beacons, although expensive, add a very important level of security to the lives of journalists in danger zones. First-aid kits and survival equipment, including for instance a filter to purify water, would complete the package every reporter should carry on the field," the RSF recommended.

No-no

Journalists may find camouflage wear fashionable but under no circumstances should they be caught in one while covering danger spot, the RSF said.

Ronald Koven of the World Press Freedom Committee seconded the RSF. "Journalists must under no circumstances wear camouflage uniforms, in whole or

in part, or wear a suit that could be construed as a uniform. This is first to avoid being a target; it is also because in case of capture, they could be considered as combatants or spies, and would not benefit from the protection of the Geneva Conventions."

Experience best teacher

"More experienced journalists have a duty to assist their younger colleagues and help them out when they find themselves in a difficult situation. Experience, it is often heard, is the best shield against risks," the RSF stressed.

The RSF also reminded editors to respect the rights of reporters to "say no and the right to withdraw if they cannot stand the pressure or the fear anymore."

The fireflies keep hoping, glowing

From page A1

The fireflies searched across the creek, around other trees, through the cogon land.

There was no sight of Honor. Days, weeks and months passed, and no Honor came home.

And so, Honor's family went to the Queen Frog to ask for help.

"Don't worry," she assured them. "I'll order all the frogs to open their mouths and you can look into their stomachs and see if one of them ate Honor!"

And so ordered the Queen Frog. Honor's family looked down the mouths of 50 frogs. No, Honor was not there.

Other insects tried to discourage and taunt the firefly family who missed Honor.

"Maybe he got eaten by a spider."

"Or a tree lizard."

"He probably ran away with a butterfly."

"He's dead. Forget Honor."

"Why do you keep on looking, he's just a firefly?"

Dee said: "Because he belongs to us and no one has the right to take him away from us."

Layad said: "Because he lights our way at night. He lights up our life."

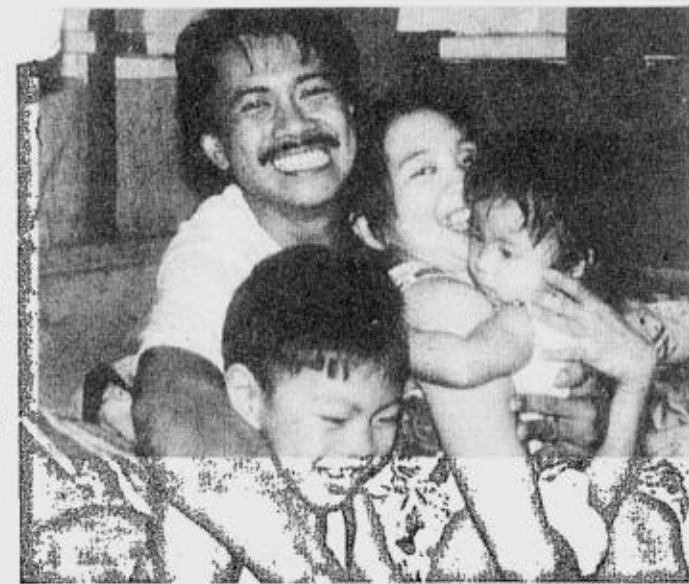
Alab said: "Because the citrus tree is not a home without him."

"We will never lose hope. We will keep looking for him as long as our bodies glow!" Dee, Alab and Layad said.

And so the family of fireflies went on with their search.

They asked help from the crickets. They asked help from the earthworms, the butterflies, the bees and beetles. They asked help from houseflies and mosquitoes.

There were some who refused to help. But mostly others listened



LIGHT of their life, Honor Ayroso, with his family, wife Dee and children Layad and Alab.

and helped in the search calling out to Honor until their voices echoed so loud and clear throughout the fields.

The crickets chirped: "Have you seen Honor? Help us find Honor Firefly!"

The bees buzzed: "Have you seen Honor? Help us find Honor Firefly!"

The birds twittered, the ducks quacked, hens clucked, and roosters crowed: "Have you seen Honor? Help us find Honor Firefly!"

Carabaos mooed, cats meowed, and dogs barked in unison because the flies and mosquitoes had not stopped buzzing into their ears: "Have you seen Honor? Help us find Honor Firefly!"

The frogs, in the dried-up creek, croaked:

"Have you seen Honor? Help us find Honor Firefly!"

And all the sounds of the creatures got louder and louder, until it reached the darkest shadows at the far end of the fields where a group of mutant toads lived. There, Kirog, the biggest, fattest and ugliest of the toads, was bursting full after finishing a heavy dinner of... FIRELESS!

"Bring me more fireflies!" Kirog Toad ordered the other toads. On a grass sheath nearby was a tiny firefly, glowing weakly, his legs glued on to the grass. He was next to be gobbled up by Kirog. He could not have enough fireflies.

Just then, from across the fields, Kirog and the toads heard so many voices crying out for help.

"HELP US FIND HONOR FIREFLY! HELP US BRING HONOR HOME!"

"Akh, my ears hurt. What's that noise?" said one of the toads.

"That's me, they're LOOKING for me!" shouted Honor Firefly with joy. He was next in line to satisfy the big appetite of the big, big Kirog. Suddenly Honor's body filled with joy and gave off a bright light, so bright it was seen all across the fields.

"Oh, but I was just about to finish you off," said Kirog Toad, his long sticky tongue reaching out for the firefly.

"Stop!" said one toad, whose ear was aching. "They will keep on with that racket if they don't find this firefly! I'm letting him go!"

"NO!" said Kirog. "I will eat all the fireflies in the field! I hate fireflies and their flashing light! They hurt my eyes!"

The tongue of the King toad was within licking distance of Honor firefly. But he could not move any closer. Hundreds of bright, flashing lights blinded his eyes.

Honor's family and lots of other firefly families hovered above Kirog. They had seen Honor's light and had come to rescue him.

"You came... you all came...!" said Honor, close to team.

"Aaaaahhh!" said the mutant toads, blinded by the rattle-dazzle of the fire from hundreds of fireflies who had come to take home Honor.

"Aaaaaaaahhhhh!" said Kirog Toad, as a huge owl swooped down and snatched him up in its claws. And that was how Kirog, the firefly-eating toad, became the dinner of an owl.

The crickets chirped. The bees buzzed. The dogs barked. The ducks quacked, hens clucked, roosters crowed and the birds sang.

This is a happy day. Honor is found. Everything's right with the world. And Dee, Layad and Alab glowed all the way home to their branch of the citrus tree.

Shattered vows: Musings of a married priest

From page A1

drance to my being a priest.

Mandatory celibacy is not part of the Christian dogma of faith nor of the early Christian tradition. It is a Church discipline that was created by the institutional church and it can be changed.

I left because I could no longer serve in an institution that despises and dehumanizes people who are honestly critical of it, who actively demonstrate their filial disobedience to a device for control by a Church that has come to adhere to too much "ecclesiasticalism."

By contrast, my married priestly life, which includes those in the married priesthood and optional celibacy movement, is dedicated to the people of God, a journeying church, an inclusive church where Christian love and compassion are paramount.

In this church, men and women, young and old, are not discriminated against. There are no victims and fall guys. They travel, they walk and they struggle together. Here I continue to serve the people's spiritual needs without imposing the fees exacted by the institutional church.

Sex scandals

Lately, the Church has been rocked by the series of sex scandals that have shocked the Archdiocese of Boston and other dioceses throughout the United States and the world. Celibate clergymen have been found to have committed sexual abuses against children and women and the Church has been spending billions of dollars in bribe money for silence or for court litigation.

I recall the centuries-old sex scandals involving clergymen in every Catholic country in the world, the Philippines included, and I am filled with mixed feelings of sadness, dismay and joy.

In my 12 years as a clergyman, the Church's power structure, "honeycombed with sexual secrecy," gradually shaped me to fit into it.

The bishop's advice to me is still very vivid: "You can take a woman, but no civil marriage, live in another place where no one knows your identity, but on Fridays or Saturdays, return to your parish for Sunday Masses."

Another bishop whose clergyman fell in love with and impregnated a woman advised her parents to take her to the a convent in Baguio until she delivered the baby, and then to leave the baby in the convent after delivery.

Culture of secrecy

Many bishops have become very shrewd in maintaining this culture of secrecy and hypocrisy. These institutional virtues are to be kept intact at all costs.

In his "Shattered Vows," David Rice wrote that "by a conservative estimate, 50 percent of the clergy in the Archdiocese of Manila have relations with women, and Jaime Cardinal Sin is silent about it."

Some bishops whose clergymen are discovered to have had carnal relationships with women or with men, whether with or without consent, send them to other dioceses or abroad to escape suspicion and hide the scandal.

In the "Pontiff" the authors write of the extraordinary situation of the clergy in the Philippines who are involved with women but this seemingly has not had an adverse effect on their ministry.

In his book, "Lead Us Not Into Temptation: Catholic Priests and the Sexual Abuse of Children," Jason Berry said: "The presumption in Rome is that a bishop will keep bad news from becoming publicly known. When a bishop fails at that, Rome looks upon it with disfavor."

What is the motive for the cover-up?

It is to keep the facade at all costs, to show that mandatory celibacy is working when in reality it has been a failure and a scourge since it was imposed in 1139 on an unwilling married clergy.

To enforce it, Pope Urban II

issued an unchristian decree: "The married priest who refuses to separate from his wife and children will be put in prison, and his wife and children sold into slavery."

The shining example of the utter failure of this law was Pope Alexander VI who had three mistresses and eight children. From 1265 to 1585, there were eight more popes with concubines and children.

Pope Alexander VI, though notorious for his womanizing and sexual affairs, was awarded by the Vatican a special stamp during the Jubilee Year 2000.

The new millennium has barely begun and these sexual scandals, hidden for years and decades, not to say centuries, are being unearthed.

Living a lie

Rev. Fr. Marek Sujkowski, a Polish clergyman, remarked bitterly: "I feel cheated out of the childhood I was entitled to and am quite bitter about it. I know

very many priests in Poland who have one or two children and have more than one or two women. It is extremely sad that the Roman Catholic Church forces its priests to live such a lie. You have to lie to yourself, lie to your parishioners and lie to God."

Fr. Marek's outburst was occasioned by the deathbed confession of Rev. Fr. Canon M. Sujkowski whom the young priest had known as his uncle but was only then revealed to have been his real bio-

logical father.

Fr. Marek dismisses Church arguments in favor of mandatory celibacy as papal propaganda. He says the reason for adhering to this law is entirely to control the Catholic clergy and Church finances and preserve the Roman Curia of the imperial Vatican state.

I believe that the morals of sexual scandal and crisis of faith that the Roman Catholic Church finds itself connected to mandatory celibacy.

The ability to live as a celibate is, as even Jesus points out in the gospel of Matthew (19, verses 11 and 12) "not given

to all." Rev. Dr. Hienz Vogels argues in his book, "Celibacy: Gift or Law?": "Celibacy is not good for all, because for those who have not received the gift of celibacy but who nevertheless face the demand of the law, that is, to refrain from marrying, mandatory

celibacy becomes an oppression as well as suppression of their God-given disposition to be completed by a partner, which often results in neurosis. And worse still such suppression may even lead to aberrations such as pedophilia, adultery or promiscuity."

Rev. Fr. Robert Flanagan, along with many other secular clergy, has confessed that he promised to be celibate because he wanted more than anything else to be a priest and the Church required it for ordination. Yet mandatory celibacy is not essential to the very nature of the priesthood as the present Pope has himself declared.

Reform and change

Amidst the sexual scandals involving the clergy, the people of God, especially the victims, have found the courage to come out in the open to denounce these despicable acts and demand justice. They have started the process of reform which has long been overdue. Believers the world over must forge links with the many victims and see in these acts of clerical immorality an opportunity of grace, a time of blessing and growth.

The institutional church leaders should stop lying for their personal advantage, con-

tinued arrogance and unwarranted moral superiority. They must face the fact that sexual misconduct has been so deep-rooted in the clerical culture since the inception of mandatory celibacy.

The sex scandals involving the clergy is tearing up the nervous system of the institutional church. The erected wall of lies in the Rock of Peter is crumbling.

"Your Holiness, the truth that we concealed has turned into poison," as one Vatican veteran has said.

Catholics should now realize that the Church is not the clergymen, bishops nor cardinals, not even the Pope. Neither is it the hierarchical structure. They exist only for the purpose of serving the faithful and helping to facilitate their way to God. When they fail to do that, the people of God have the imperative to rise up and demand accountability, as Rev. Fr. Edward L. Beck has written.

Bishop Gaillot of France prophetically commented: "Change in the Church will not come from Rome, neither from the bishops and clergymen... but change will obviously come from the grassroots—the People of God."

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Sibog, Forbes emerge heirs to Muros' throne

Tondo archer youngest champ

YOUTHFUL Adelinda Figueroa beat multititled Joann Tabanag to emerge as the youngest women's archery champion in the national championship at the UP-PSC range in Diliman, Quezon City.

The 19-year-old Figueroa, a member of the Tamaraw Archery Club in Tondo who claimed the US Open intermediate crown in 1998, whipped Tabanag, the 1985 and 1995 south-east Asian Games gold medalist, 97 to 87, in the Olympic Round finals.

Sydney Olympian Jennifer Chan finished third.

Other winners in the different women's categories were Jennifer Chan, adult; Rachelle Anne Cabral, Fita; Ma. Sherlyn Palattao, overall, high school and college; Hazel Rosales, standard round, high school; Palattao, standard round college; and Patty Barriga, cadet.

Gen. Jose Marlowe Pedregosa dominated the Master level event in the compound division, ruling the 90-, 70- and 50-meter distances with scores of 271, 299 and 285 points, respectively.

Llamas prevails

CALAMBA'S Jay Pee Llamas and Ariba's Chariz Gonzales bowled well when it mattered to bag the boys' and girls' duckpin bowling titles in the 27th Grand and 8th Youth national championships at the Puyat Sports Center in Starmall, Mandaluyong City.

Llamas toppled townmate Jerome Aligui, 219-190, while Gonzales whipped Roschelle Palma, 181-169, in the two-game finals.

Gerry Ancheta shared the day's honors by winning the senior crown. He beat Bob Robiles, 225-188, in the lopsided finals.

Bobiles earned a shot by crushing Laarni Cunanan, 131-88, in the first knockout match. Aligui advanced to the finals by knocking out Eman Santos, 98-88.

Gonzales routed Ma. Jeck Aberin, 94-63, to move into the finals against Palma.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HEIRS to the throne of track and field queen Elma Muros-Posadas continued to emerge yesterday in the fourth and final day of the Gov. Siring Cup at the Rizal Memorial track oval.

In fact, Muros personally acknowledged one of them when she gifted South Cotabato's 17-year-old Maricel Sibog her neon green spikes that she wore when she bagged the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games long jump gold, which capped her long sterling career.

"I know that my contribution to track and field won't be complete until I found a worthy successor," said the 36-year-old Muros, who now works as coach of the University of the East.

The 5-foot-6 Sibog, who bears Muros' signature form in the long jump runway with arms outstretched and legs flung forward, won the gold in the girls' long jump and the silver in the triple jump to catch Muros' attention.

But she's not the only one who attempted to replace the legend. Julie Rose Forbes, 18, captured two gold medals — both in national juniors record-breaking fashion — in 100m hurdles and 400m hurdles, which are two of Muros' favorite events.

Forbes, who hails from Pitogo, Quezon, easily became the finest discovery of the meet sponsored by Milo and the Philippine Sports Commission.

"If you measure the meet's success by the

number of records broken, then I could very well say that this is a successful event," said athletics chief Go Teng Kok. "From the performances of my national team to the new discoveries from the provinces, I'm very satisfied."

He added that athletes like Eduardo Buenavista, John Lozada and Lerma Bulautan are following a regimen that would help them peak by the Asian Games.

"So it's understandable that they didn't break any records," said Go. "But they are making progress according to their program."

Lozada snatched his second gold medal yesterday by winning the 1,500m in three minutes, 57.69 seconds, which is within the 1998 Asian Games winning mark of 3:51.



MUROS

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA
By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Princess Malinda 2. Love Dolls 3. Bold Freddy

Race 2—1. Mr. Lucas 2. Absolute Power 3. Slew's Valentine

Race 3—1. Dragon Doding 2. Noble Principality 3. The Mailman 4. Bells of Hope

Race 4—1. High Roller 2. Hyperbid 3. Coventina

Race 5—1. Sacred Hall 2. Titan 3. Flying Fortress

Race 6—1. Time Specialist 2. Armees Hope 3. Two Thumbs Up 4. Maniaman

Race 7—1. Rock's Dragon 2. Batang Pier 3. Test Run 4. Assunta de Rio 5. Sky Wind

Race 8—1. Countess Diana 2. James Joy 3. Might and Power

Race 9—1. Regalberto 2. Mrs. Big 3. Baby Lite

Race 10—1. Majestic Ruler 2. Thunder Speed 3. Perfect Lyza 4. Primero de Mayo

Race 11—1. Golden Ballet 2. Conquer D Sun 3. Accurized 4. Always Florence

Race 12—1. Velocity 2. Irish Star 3. Lorna 4. Something Best

Race 13—1. Ray Moon 2. Better Harry 3. Princely Native 4. Native Talent

Race 14—1. Man for Others 2. Alessandra 3. Tatler Cover/Silakko 4. Perfect Date 5. Bukambibig



BOSTON Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) collides with Philadelphia 76ers Aaron McKie during the deciding Game Five of their NBA playoff series in Boston yesterday. The Celtics won, 120-87. The San Antonio Spurs also advanced by beating the Seattle SuperSonics, 101-78. AP

Spurs, Celtics advance

BOSTON—Paul Pierce scored 46 points—the fifth-best playoff performance in franchise history—as the Celtics beat the Philadelphia 76ers, 120-87, in the decisive fifth game of their NBA playoff series to advance to a second-round matchup with the Detroit Pistons.

Antoine Walker had 26 points, nine rebounds and six assists for the Celtics, who were making their first playoff appearance since 1995. They had not won a postseason series since 1992, Larry Bird's final season.

Pierce was 8-for-10 from 3-point range, pushing off Matt Harpring and calmly nailing a 3 to give Boston a 97-79 lead with 6:05 left. Walker followed with a 3-pointer and then Pierce hit two more to make it 106-82 with 4:15 left and cap a 22-7 run.

Allen Iverson scored 31 for the Sixers, who were trying to become just the seventh team to win a five-game series after losing the first two games.

Spurs 101, SuperSonics 78
Tim Duncan, back from his father's funeral a day earlier, scored six of San Antonio's first eight points and finished with 23 to lead the Spurs to an emotion-fueled rout of Seattle in the deciding game of their best-of-five series.

With the victory, San Antonio advances to a second-round matchup with the two-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers and a chance to avenge last year's four-game sweep by the Lakers in the Western Conference finals.

Malik Rose added 18 points and a game-high 13 rebounds for the Spurs, while Tony Parker scored 15. Steve Smith had 14 and Antonio Daniels scored 13. Duncan also had nine boards and seven blocks. AP

Salty sea

NOW I know why Hemingway wrote "The Old Man and The Sea." He could not have written it if he did not love the sea. Hemingway loved the sea so much he lived much of his life near the sea.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

A wounded war hero, Hemingway loved to write facing the sea. He had the view of the sea from his room. He wrote from the window ledge of his room standing, the wind from the sea serving like opium to extract his creative juices.

Hemingway, a consummate fisherman himself, was on my mind when I had my real one-on-one with the sea just a while back. The thrill of landing a fish was second only to thoughts that I could perish in a moment. The banca appeared fragile, like a mere iota, amid a sea of waves measuring as high as 20 feet.

During the two days that I was at sea, the boat I was into was tossed like a dice by giant slammers that I only saw previously on TV, or in the movies. At close range, the sea wasn't blue but black. How the boat—some 30 feet long—survived the grind has remained a puzzle to this day.

"The banca appears small, but it is a very safe ride," said Rey Buencamino, my partner for the tournament.

Still, the banca always appeared like it was ready to capsize. The house-high waves that banged us up seemed like eternity. The salty sea pierced my lips endlessly, stung my eyes so bad tears rolled down involuntarily. I threw up the first day.

"Two bonamines will cure that," said Vic Villavicencio, the tournament sponsor. "Take them one hour before you set sail."

I did. And the guts stopped turning. The next day, I caught 7 dorados; weighed together, they tipped the scales at more than 35 kilos.

"For a rookie, you did well," said Rey, the best teacher there ever is when it comes to game fishing.

What we did was trawl fishing, the ultimate in game fishing. I did outscore the opposition (only two of the nine dorados that bit our boradors got away) but not after barely beating the elements. Once ashore after staying almost 10 hours at sea, my bones were weary, my soul was searching for answers. Did I really accomplish that?

"Certainly, you passed the test with honors," said Rey.

Just minutes after I had my first gulp of San Mig light, my thighs started to ache. Sunburn. No sunblock can ever block the sun's searing rays.

I'm not complaining, though. Hemingway must have suffered more; thoughts of his dear Santiago in "The Old Man and The Sea" next raced through my mind. And then I thought of my 7 dorados. Ha-ha.

No pain, no gain.

Archers stake Valdes Cup against Eagles

THE LA SALLE Green Archers will defend the title they wrested from the Ateneo Blue Eagles last year in the 15th Ambassador Valdes Cup on May 28-30 at the North and South courses of Canlubang.

Both schools are expected to field in their top parbusters in this year's event sponsored by PLDT, Smart, Pepsi, Taylor Made, Adidas, and Union Bank Visa.

Spearheading La Salle are Paul Salvador, Tony Olives, Raffi Garcia, Abe Rosal, Ronnie Littau, Richie Garcia, Cookie La'O, Dan Salvador III, JR Tanpinco, Caloy Coscolluella, Alex Montelibano and Francis Gaston.

Leading the Ateneo charge are Kit Lopez, Jinky Tuason, Mari Hechanova, Iggy Clavecilla, Bogn Brobio, Jeric Hechanova, Junjun Plana, Pepot Ifigo, Joel Opaco, Manoling Chan, Luigi Yulo and OV Espiritu.

For this year's competition, the playing field will be distributed in three days. This should give way to faster play and improved scoring. Day and course assignments are as follows: May 28—ages: 28-29 (south), ages 30-39: (North); May 29—ages: 40-49: (south), ages: 50-59 (north); May 30—ages: 60 and above (north), ages: 19 and below (south) as well as the Ladies Division.

Abadia, Victorino forge showdown

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Davis Cuppers Adelo Abadia and Joseph Victorino registered contrastign victories Friday night to forge a title showdown in the men's singles of the first Coca-Cola National Tennis championships at the New Subic Bay International Tennis Center here.

The second-ranked Abadia, who returned to the national team last October after a four-month hiatus, defeated fellow Davis Cupper Michael Mora III, 6-4, 6-4, to make his 10th trip to the finals.

"I always expect a tough match against Mora because he's a very good player," said the 24-year-old Abadia after improving his head-on record to Mora at 5-3.

Abadia, the hero in the Philippines' 3-2 victory over Kuwait in last month's Davis Cup tie,

seeks to win his sixth career-title against the third-seeded Victorino.

"Magaling yung bata, dehado ako. Kailangan kong maging mas aggressive sa kanya," said Abadia, who lost to Victorino in the Classic Pro semis, 6-7, 6-4, 0-6, two years ago.

Victorino, the youngest member of the national team at 18, survived an equally talented and ninth seed pop Sabandon of La Salle, 6-2, 7-6 (3), for his fourth finals appearance.

The finals will be on May 11 with the champion earning P20,000 and the runner-up P10,000 in this Group A event presented by Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc. and supported by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chair Felicitio Payumo.

GS Superio shatters distance driving mark

THE NISSAN Exalta GS Superio overshot the old mark of 30,586 with an extra 75 kilometers on its Caltex Havoline odometer as the fourth Pan Philippine Marathon came to a halt yesterday at the Greenbelt parking lot in Makati.

Even before it arrived before noon, the Exalta had already shattered the previous record at around midnight of Friday in Tagaytay City.

When the Exalta finally arrived at Greenbelt—where Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Nissan officials Jack Wu, Arthur Wang, Vir Diwa and Tonette Lee were on hand for a grand welcome. The silver sedan that made the rounds of central Luzon, Ilocandia, Visayas and Mindanao, had a kilometer reading of 30,661.

The proof of passage was signed not by a high-ranking official, but by a fruit vendor.

Aida Anbion, who sells papaya, coconut, mangoes and bananas by the roadside, signed the document in the presence of the Exalta's

daredevil crew of drivers and navigators.

The leader of the final drive was navigator Andy Dysangco, whose involvement in the 30-day non-stop run with renowned driver Willie Ingles made it possible for the crew to finish the vent in style.

"This was a perfect team-up between man and machine," said Diwa during the press conference yesterday at the National Sports Grill.

Others who sacrificed a lot in ensuring the Exalta's near-flawless run include Willy Avila, Juvy Catajoy, Jun Ramirez, Sonny Joaquin, Chuchie Iriarte, Milo Cacanindin, Boy Fuentes, Bebot Roque, Jay Roque, Andy Ferreira, Robbie David, Denny Riel, Sonny Ariel, Lester Suisi and Lester Dizon.

"We could have made it 31,000," boasted Dysangco, "but we were already thinking of the future drivers and navigators who will be given the task of breaking this record."

The same car that made the rounds of the provinces will be on display in Nissan dealers nationwide, according to Diwa.

The same modified Blind Callaway format will be applied in the tournament. Entry fee is P1,900 (inclusive of green fee, awards dinner, raffle, giveaways, and one mulligan per nine) for non-members and P900 for Canlubang members.

Eligible are players and alumni from any Christian brother or any Jesuit-run school who must have at least completed two years in that school. Awarding to follow at the National Sports Grill at Greenbelt on May 30 at 6 p.m.

For information, call 426-6081/82 - 527/0782 - 722-7750.

Zoletas take 2 crowns each

ZOLETA siblings Bien and Bambi of Mary Hill College-Lucena City won two titles each yesterday in the first Enervon International Juniors Tennis Challenge at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Bien won the girls' 18-under title over Poveda's Katrina Pamintuan, 6-1, 6-1, and later annexed the 16-under title after beating Ivy de Castro, 6-4, 6-2. Bambi outplayed Julie Em Botor, 6-2, 6-2, for the 14-under title and took the 12-under crown via a 6-1, 6-4 win over Jessica Agra in this Group 1 event sponsored by Dunlop balls.

Kentucky Derby on

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—War Emblem has early speed. Easy Grades and Lusty Latin are closers. Essence of Dubai is the only colt to have won at 1-1/4 miles.

These are the strengths of some of the 19 3-year-olds who will run in Saturday's 128th Kentucky Derby.

Buddha, one of the most talented colts, will be back in the barn when the field heads for the post at Churchill Downs. The gray colt was scratched because of a bruised left front foot Friday, dashing the hopes of trainer H. James Bond.

Villamayor triumphs

GRANDMASTER Buenaventura "Bong" Villamayor celebrated his birthday in style, winning over erstwhile solo leader International Master Mark Paragua in a marathon 98 moves to climb into second place behind his victim and two other bidders in the 12th round of the Grand Finals of the National Chess Championship in the 17th floor (penthouse) of the All Asia Capital Center in Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Conference Semifinals — Dallas vs Sacramento at 6:30 a.m. (r - 9 p.m.) on ESPN and at 8 p.m. (delayed) on NBN-4
NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
MOTOR SPORTS: 2002 F1 Spanish Grand Prix Highlights at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1993, Tyrone Ongpaucio tallied 1945 pins to capture the Junior Masters crown of the 1st Coronado-TBAM Junior Open tenpin bowling championship at the Coronado Lanes. Also today in 1994, Isagani Salibat shot a four-over-par 76 to top the RPGA Mindanao regional junior golf championship at the Apo Golf and Country course in Davao City.

LOTTO 6/42

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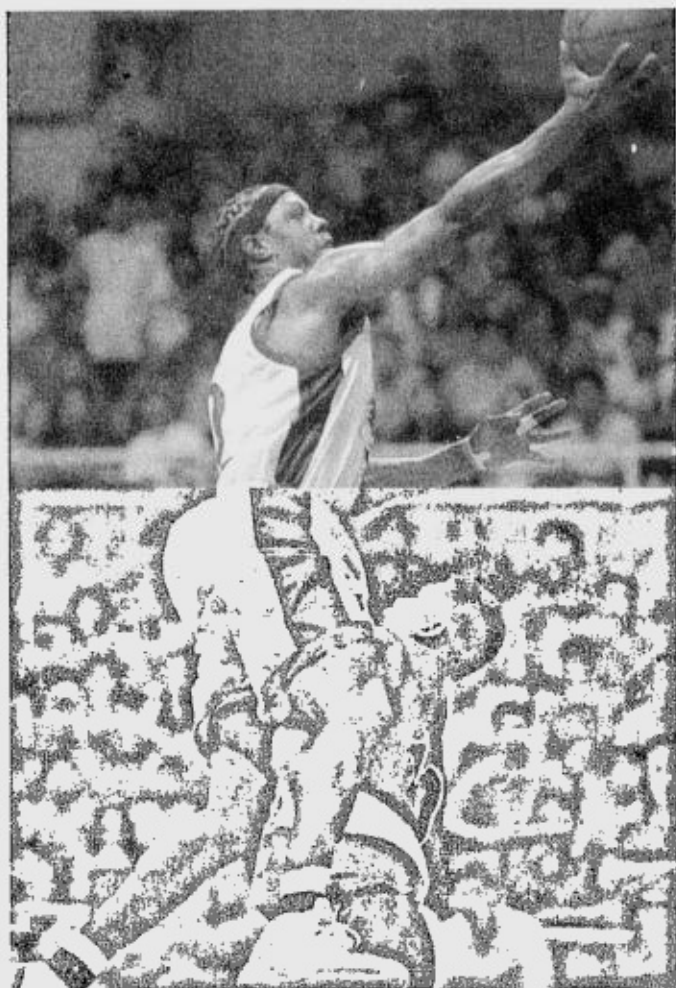
Sunday SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SIX DIGIT

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(In exact order)



PUREFOODS' Derrick Brown scores over Coke's Cris Bolado during Game 1 of their PBA semifinals on Tuesday. Purefoods won, 89-86.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Sports captures PDI cage title

By Dennis U. Eroa

SPORTS repulsed Libre, 96-93, in a roller-coaster match yesterday to end its five-year search for the Inquirer Basketball Championship at the Olympia Gym in Makati City.

Sports ran smack into a never-say-die Libre squad, which was trying to avenge a 105-77 humiliation it absorbed in Game One of the best-of-three titular series.

Sports bucked the challenge by keeping its poise in the home stretch.

Prolific Dayong Mendoza, who does cartoons and illustrations for this paper, scattered 31 points before being named the tournament's most valuable player.

He got ample backing from sportswriter June Navarro, photo chief Ernie Sarmiento and Jake de los Reyes to preserve the victory that Sports had narrowly missed pocketing twice during the last three years.

Slotman Jim Guiao Punzalan manned the low post effectively with help from wide-bodied Rollie Abad and Arnold Galimba. Lorenz Manguiat made life miserable for Libre's swingmen with his leech-

like guarding.

With only eight players at his disposal, coach Al Mendoza shuffled his men with some cunning, pacing them in a manner that killed any onset of fatigue to anyone.

Mendoza got a big play from Sarmiento, who came up with a crucial steal that he parlayed into a triple for a six-point Sports cushion, 73-67, effectively stopping a brewing Libre uprising.

Libre had one last gasp when Eric Arazas, Genie Lagman, Gilbert Rago, Karl Sumbelling and Ritchie Sabado pooled their resources together to threaten at 92-94, 6.2 seconds to go.

But from a timeout, Sports forced two straight turnovers with an airtight defense, leading to Navarro's title-clinching gift shots with barely a tick left.

Scores:

SPORTS 96—Mendoza 31, Punzalan 16, Navarro 14, De los Reyes 11, Sarmiento 10, Galimba 8, Abad 4, Manguiat 2.

LIBRE 93—Sabado 24, Arazas 21, Sumbelling 18, Lagman 13, Rago 10, Ruiz 3, Roberto 2, Reinoso 2.

Quarters: 14-13, 44-39, 50-41, 96-93.

Kasibulan instructors attend football course

THIRTY-SIX Kasibulan instructors from different provinces gathered at the University of Life Philsports recently for the 4th Milo "Instruct the Instructors" course conducted by the Youth Development Committee of the Philippine Football Federation.

Thirteen officers of the 24 provincial football associations of the PFF, including several FA presidents and general secretaries, attended along with DECS PE super-

visors Tito Benegian of Davao del Norte and Nestor Londerio of Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija. Angelica Suiza, marketing director of Adidas Philippines, reiterated her company's continued involvement and support for sports.

She was accompanied by Goody Custodio, assistant marketing director of Adidas. Adidas has been a major supporter of the Kasibulan project and an award was given by Kasibulan chair Juan Miguel Romualdez to Suiza.

SUIZA



BOUND FOR SCOTLAND

Rita Horan (extreme left) and Dr. Arnon Rivera (second from left) won the recently concluded 3rd Jaguar Golf Invitational held at the Country Club. Nobody won the Jaguar X-Type 2.5 litre, a hole-in-one prize courtesy of Lacoste. Horan and Rivera will compete in the Jaguar World Golf Final next month in Gleneagles, Scotland. Jaguar Philippines chair and president, Wellington C. Soong and Bettina Palpal-Latoc (marketing manager of Cathay Pacific) awarded the business class tickets to the winners.

Hotdogs try to finish off Tigers in Game 3 tonight

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
3:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coca-Cola
5:45 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska
GAME 1
Purefoods d. Coca-Cola, 89-86
San Miguel d. Alaska, 72-66
GAME 2
Purefoods d. Coca-Cola, 84-75
Alaska d. San Miguel, 67-63 OT

By June Navarro

THE PUREFOODS Hotdogs will try to finish the Coca-Cola Tigers off at the re-

sumption of their semifinal series today in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Hotdogs reigned supreme over the Tigers during their semifinal opener, 89-86, and duplicated the act, 84-75, in Game 2 of their best-of-five series Thursday last week.

Another victory for coach Ryan Gregorio's wards in the 3:45 p.m. clash would cut short the series.

To avoid instant death, the Tigers must solve Derrick Brown's

riddle, an unexpected occurrence that had struck them in the past two games.

Brown was virtually unstoppable during the Hotdogs' twin victories as he converted the crucial baskets in the final quarter to neutralize Coca-Cola's Roselle Ellis-Ron Hale combine.

Should Gregorio succeed in outsmarting coach Chot Reyes tonight, the Hotdogs will return to the Finals for the first time since the 2000 Governors Cup when they lost to San Miguel Beer, four games to one.

Success for the Hotdogs would also mean meeting for the championship plum either the San Miguel Beermen or the Alaska Aces, who reduced their semifinal battle to a best-of-three affair after tying the series at one game apiece.

The Aces thwarted the Beermen's goal of sweeping the series after they drew level with a 67-63 overtime victory Thursday night. Ron Riley and James Head came to the Aces' rescue as they combined for 10 points in the extra period that snuffed the life out of the Beermen.

Professional Eagles dump Gems

GAMES TODAY (Lipa Cultural Center)
1 p.m.—Pampanga vs Olongapo
3:30 p.m.—Pangasinan vs Batangas

DAVAO CITY—When at home, the Professional Davao Eagles' claws are razor-sharp.

Egged on by the big crowd, the Eagles routed the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 97-75, Friday night to boost their drive for a semifinals berth in the MBA First Conference at the RMC Gym here.

With a six-win, three-loss card, the Eagles climbed to second place

in the Southern Conference, overtaking their victims who dropped to 5-3.

Mike Manigo presided over the Eagles' demolition job with a well-rounded performance that earned him best player honors. He wound up with 19 points, five rebounds, eight assists, three steals and one block as the Eagles avenged their 107-103 defeat to the Gems on April 8.

Apart from Manigo, Eagles coach Bong Go also drew fine performances from Bong Marata, Pe-

ter June Simon, Billy Mamaril, Jon Dan Salvador and Cid White.

Marata came up with 17 points, 10 rebounds and two steals, while Simon also had 17 points and two steals for the Eagles, who led by as many as 27 points (69-42) late in the third quarter. Mamaril contributed 12 points, Salvador 11 and White eight apart from 11 rebounds as the Eagles stayed unbeaten in their territory. They bested the Pampanga Stars, 94-88, at the same venue on April 16.

The Eagles will assure themselves

of a semifinal stint if they win over the Osaka Pangasinan Waves in their final elimination round assignment on May 11.

Roy Luaraca

Scores:

DAVAO 97—Manigo 19, Simon 17, Marata 17, Mamaril 12, Salvador 11, White 8, Montalbo 7, Sasuman 4, Yap 0, Menor 0.

CEBU 75—Dacia 15, Tagulines 12, Echavez 11, Padilla 10, De Jesus 9, Tangkay 6, Quilban 3, Lumantas 2, Pingris 2, Lura 0.

Quarters: 27-20, 53-38, 69-53, 97-75.

SPORTSWATCH

Intervillage golf resumes tomorrow

THE NOKIA Intervillage golf tournament resumes tomorrow with the staging of the South tournament at the Manila Golf Club. A dozen teams led by defending champion Merville Park are entered. The 12-to-play, eight-to-count tournament, organized by Videocom in 1991 to develop camaraderie and fellowship among the members of golfing villages, is also sponsored by PLDT, Volvo, Alaxan, ICTSI, Mastercard, Mizuno, Philippine Airlines, Boracay 357 and National Sports Grills. The teams and their respective team captains out to challenge Merville Park are Alabang 400 (Ryan Abdon), Alabang Hills (Joe Justo), Ayala Alabang (Eric Tensuan), BF Homes (Joseph Tambunting), Levittown (Cora Tan), Marcelo Green (Gie Rivera), Pilar Village (Dave Pabalan), Philam Las Piñas (Roque Fado), South Bay Garden (Ely Garcia), United Parañaque (Jimmy Zeharosa) and Tahanan Village (Raffy Ilagan) also led by Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez. Nokia, a world leader in mobile communication, is this year's title sponsor. The top three teams after the North, South, Central and East tournaments will advance to the Nokia Grand Intervillage in November.

Tatap names nat'l pool members

THE TABLE Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) chose the members of the men's and women's national team in the recently concluded First Tatap National Table Tennis Selection at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Chosen were Richard Gonzales, Antonio Aguilalde, Joseph Cruz, Rebo Cruz, and Julius Esposo to compose the men's national team. Crisanta Abas, Susan Tayag, Jade Jalloren, and Sendrina Balatbat were chosen for the women's national team. They were chosen among 227 table tennis players from various clubs and associations across the country, according to Tatap president Victor Villanueva. Antonio won the men's singles event, with Kirby Collis on second place, while Johanne Remaneses and Jacinto Bermundo were on third place. On the other hand, Marell Lagunday dominated the women's singles event, while Jalloren emerged as the runner-up, and Jessica Jawad and Gea Khristinge Tady came out second runners-up.

25K race to Chicago starts at the Fort

CASH prizes await the top finishers in both the men's and women's divisions of the New Balance 25K Race to Chicago on May 26 from the Fort Inside Fort Bonifacio to Rock Center in Guadalupe, including the age group winners in the 10K fun run. The top five overall winners in the 25K distance event, men and women, will get P7,000, P5,000, P4,000, P3,000, and P2,000, respectively, plus trophies and New Balance products for the first three placers. The fourth and fifth placers get medals on top of their cash prizes. There will be 6 age groups in the men's division, 19 & under, 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, and 60 & over while the females entries will have four age categories, 19 & under, 20 to 29, 30 to 39, and 40 & over, with the top three in each age group to receive P1,000, P300, and P200 respectively. In the 10K fun run, the top three male and female finishers will get P3,000, P2,000, and P1,000 plus trophies and New Balance products while the age group champions get P500 each plus a medal, the second and third placers in the different age groups will be given medals only.

Ceelin swimming festival May 18

THE 2ND Ceelin Swimming Festival, the country's first and only swimming competition exclusively for 12 and under swimmers, will take place on May 18-19 at the St. Benedict College pool in Alabang. Organizer Ral Rosario, a former Olympian and head coach of the Swordfish Swimming Club, said he expects a big crowd. Ceelin product manager Joey Peralta said Ceelin provides athletes with vitamin C, which in turn provides protection, resistance and strength particularly for young and aspiring athletes.

Volleyball workshop slated at UE gym

VOLLEYBALL Solidarity will conduct a volleyball trainer's workshop and officiating course tomorrow at the UE gym.

The program is open to all volleyball aficionados and trainers/coaches. Former national volleyball players Kid Santos, now the athletics coordinator of FEU; George Pascua, FEU assistant coach; Ernesto Pamilar, Letran head coach; and Johnny Candoy, National University head coach; will conduct the drills and give the lectures.

Seminar fee is P2,000, inclusive of course materials, lunch and certificate. Among the sponsors are Rexona and New Zealand Milk. would-be participants are advised to wear sports attire.

For inquiries, call/text Jenny Pascua at 0920-7686080/0917-5007156 and 735-0233.

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

■ Mother of three wounded
 in Pangarap shooting /A22

'Millions' offered to family of slain nurse, says prober

We're open to suggestions, says lawyer

By Alcuin Papa

THE AYALA-ALABANG matron suspected of shooting dead a nurse in Las Piñas City last month has offered "millions in cash" to the family of the victim, hoping to settle the case out of court, according to police and the victim's lawyer.

A Las Piñas investigator, who requested anonymity, confirmed this, saying that Marybeth Lopez de Leon offered "millions" to the family of victim Belma Abella.

Lawyer Mel "Batas" Mauricio, counsel for the victim's family, yesterday also said a high-ranking police official had told him De Leon was offering money to the Abellas in exchange for dropping the case.

Mauricio said he and his client were "open to all suggestions."

He told the Inquirer that before they can consider accepting the settlement, they will have to first consider "the welfare of my client, and the interest of justice."

"It will also depend on the public prosecutor and whether there is enough evidence to pursue the case," he added.

De Leon, 57, wife of businessman Jose Vicente Madrigal de Leon and a resident of Ayala-Alabang in Muntinlupa, on Tuesday appeared before the Las Piñas prosecutor's office with her counsel to deny that she shot and killed Abella, her husband's private nurse, outside the BF International Village last month.

In a 10-page counter-affidavit, De Leon asked the prosecutors to dismiss the murder charge filed against her, saying she had no motive to kill Abella because the nurse was a "close confidante and friend."

She argued that there was no direct evidence linking her to the crime and that there was no witness.

Her driver Wensis Tablang and BF International Village security guard Conrado Erasca are set to testify against De Leon.

De Leon's lawyers, Alexander Poblador and Jaime Hofilena, said they found loopholes in the testimonies of the witnesses.

The lawyers said that according to the sworn statements of the witnesses, neither Tablang nor Erasca actually saw the shooting of Abella.

The city prosecutor will decide next month whether De Leon will stand trial for murder.

A Philhealth card for every Caviteño

By Joven S. Joya
 Contributor

CAVITE Gov. Ayong Saquilayan Maliksi works hard at keeping himself in tip-top shape. And he makes his fitness and health routine easier by living a clean life. He doesn't smoke or drink anything stronger than a cup of his favorite homegrown coffee, Cavite Brew or Café Amadeo.

His meals are as simple as his lifestyle—just enough rice, steamed vegetables freshly harvested from his farm and fresh fish cooked with tamarind or slices of green mango, and, if it can't be avoided during frequent appearances in weddings and birthdays and fiestas, a few bites of meat.

No wonder that at 64, the governor is amazingly sprightly and healthy. In the last 30 years or so, says one of his two appointments secretaries, the governor has not been sick save for a few rare bouts with the common cold.

The secretary says his boss has never seen the inside of a hospital room except to visit a sick relative or friend or to have a long overdue executive check-up.

The only fly in the ointment was that his blood sugar was found bordering on the allowable maximum level. "Still normal," says Maliksi, "but I have to strictly watch my food intake. I thought I was already doing well in that area with the kind of food I eat and don't eat."

For poor

What he now enjoys — good health — he wants to give to his poor constituents.

Now in the implementation stage is his Philhealth insurance program to cover the needy families first. "By year's end," he says, "we would have already enrolled 100,000

A PHILHEALTH/ A22



LEG MAN

A guest is the picture of concentration as he watches Miss Philippines 2002 candidates during the press presentation at the Hotel Intercontinental poolside last Thursday.

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'Arnis de mano' named Manila's official martial art

By Jerome Aning

THE MANILA City council has passed a resolution declaring "arnis de mano" as the city's official martial art.

Councilor Julio Logarta Jr., author of the resolution, said arnis

de mano is a form of martial arts indigenous to the Philippines that should be promoted throughout the city.

He said other martial arts from other Oriental countries, such as judo, karate, sumo wrestling and tae kwan do have been recog-

nized worldwide and even included in the Olympic Games.

The popularity of martial arts also contributed to the economic development and promotion of tourism in their countries of origin, he said.

The sixth district councilor re-

called that arnis de mano was practiced by early Filipinos as a means of exercise and for self-defense.

Arnis de mano techniques were used by Lapu-lapu and his men in defeating Magellan and the Spanish soldiers during the Battle of

Mactan in 1521, according to him.

Even national heroes like Jose Rizal and Andres Bonifacio were adept in arnis de mano, he said.

"This resolution hopes to instill in our children a sense of national

pride in the field of sports development," he said, adding that arnis should be taught in all city schools.

Logarta said interest in arnis is not wide and that the sport is not even included in the annual Palarong Pambansa.

DENR orders landfill reopening

By Carmela Reyes

PDI Central Luzon Desk

BULACAN, Bulacan—Alarmed by a possible breakout of diseases caused by accumulated garbage, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez ordered the temporary reopening of a 2.5-hectare landfill in Barangay Bambang here.

Garbage trucks are now allowed

to dump household wastes in the landfill almost a month after Alvarez ordered its closure following residents' complaints of pollution.

Alvarez lifted his order and approved the recommendation of Lormelyn Claudio, Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) chief for Central Luzon, to temporarily reopen the landfill following an appeal by Mayor Anacleto Meneses

who said the closure could lead to a breakout of diseases caused by uncollected garbage.

Last week, Meneses asked Claudio to inspect the landfill to determine if the area around it was free from any pollution.

But Claudio asked the local government to follow the conditions set by the EMB for the reopening of the landfill.

One of the conditions is the construction of a buffer zone to separate the landfill from farms and fishponds.

If local officials fail to comply with the conditions in three months, the EMP would be forced to recommend to Alvarez the permanent closure of the landfill, Claudio said.

"We recommended the reopen-

ing of the landfill because this could severely affect the health of the residents," she said.

Earlier, Alvarez ordered the closure of the landfill after fishpond operator Boying Cruz complained that garbage had been polluting his fishponds located near the dumpsite.

Alvarez also ordered the local government to pay a P200,000-fine

for failing to stop the dumping of garbage in Barangay Bambang. However, when Claudio visited the landfill last week, she found that the garbage was not affecting Cruz's fishponds.

She stressed, however, that if officials failed to protect the natural resources around the landfill, the EMB would permanently close the dumpsite.



Escriva stamp presented to Cardinal Sin

THE PEACE Research Foundation recently presented to Manila Archbishop Jaime L. Cardinal Sin the souvenir frame of the commemorative stamp on the birth centenary (1902-2002) of Jose Maria Escriva, the founder of Opus Dei who will be canonized on Oct. 6, 2002 in St. Peter's Square. The commemorative stamp was issued by the

Philippine Postal Corp. as requested by the PRF and endorsed by the Manila archbishop.

Presenting and explaining the contents of the frame and stamp are AFP vice chief of staff Lt. General Gregorio Camling (second from left), one of the founding members of PRF; and multi-awarded Taytay artist Godofredo F. Zapanta Sr. (left), the stamp designer.



The stamp design, entitled "Magpakabalan Sa Gawain," depicts the core of Escriva's teachings: "Any honest work, done well, as a service to God and fellowmen, is a means for ordinary men and women to become saints."

Mother of three wounded in Pangarap shooting

By Agnes E. Donato and Angeli A. Alagcan

TENSION once again gripped the disputed Pangarap Village in Caloocan City yesterday morning when a security guard of businessman Gregorio "Greggy" Araneta III shot and wounded a woman resident.

Police arrested security guard Ever Esposo, 25, hours after he allegedly shot Marlyn Dawang Alonzo, 32. She is now being treated at the East Avenue Medical Center, police said.

Alonzo, a mother of three, was tending her small sari-sari store at the corner of Araneta Avenue and Narra Street, Pangarap Village, Barangay 181, Caloocan, when the shooting took place.

According to barangay captain Renato Borbon, Araneta's security

guards started to put up a metal gate in the area at about 10 a.m. triggering an outcry among residents.

Araneta has been trying to reclaim the 156-hectare property which Pangarap residents say was awarded to them by the Marcos government in the 1970s.

Borbon said hundreds of residents gathered at the site to protest the setting up of the barrier.

During the protest, someone allegedly threw a stone at the guards, prompting the security men to fire on the crowd.

After the shooting stopped, the crowd found Alonzo bleeding on the floor of her store.

The victim apparently took cover during the shooting, but the bullet pierced the aluminum wall of her store

and hit her.

Alonzo was taken to the E. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital where she was given initial treatment. Later, she was transferred to the East Avenue Medical Center, police said.

Borbon said the residents got even more agitated when they learned of Alonzo's plight.

The residents reportedly dismantled the guards' outpost in the area and destroyed their vehicles.

A member of Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo's staff said the mayor will be meeting with Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina and Metro Manila police chief Edgardo Aglipay to discuss ways to avert the violence in the disputed village.

Woman stabs brother in house dispute

A WOMAN stabbed and seriously injured her own brother in Makati City on Friday when they argued over the rights to their house.

Police said Antonio Belarmino, 39, of Pinagkaisahan, Makati, was stabbed by his sister Pamela, 37,

Investigator SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman said Antonio and Pamela on Friday morning started to argue over who would get the house. The argument became physical as Antonio hit his sister, who grabbed a knife and stabbed

him, police said.

Neighbors and relatives brought Antonio to the Ospital ng Makati while Pamela went to the Makati City police to file her own complaint against her brother for attacking her. **Alcun Papa**

Pedicab men seek protection

By Jerome Aning

MANILA pedicab drivers want to forge an agreement with Mayor Lito Atienza to protect their trade, which is under threat from City Hall officials who want to remove pedicabs from the streets.

Members of the Pedikab para sa Kabuhayan (Pedikab) have mounted several protest rallies outside city hall this week to demand an end to alleged abuses in the implementation of ordinances regulating pedicab operations in the capital.

Pedikab wants city officials to set up legal pedicab terminals and designate "practical" routes for the drivers.

The drivers also want traffic enforcers and other city authorities to properly implement two ordinances regulating their operations.

Some drivers have complained that they can no longer ply their trade because most streets in the city have been made "off-limits" to pedicabs.

They added that drivers who are cited for violations allegedly do not get their permits back.

The drivers also claimed that traffic authorities tended to harass them while they ply their trade.

Alinea, 92

FRANCISCA Uy vda. de Guia, of Hagonoy, Bulacan and Masantol, Pampanga, mother-in-law of Tempo sportswriter Eddie Alinea, passed away last Thursday due to a lingering illness. She was 92.

She is survived by children Leonora, Rafaela, Concepcion, Marcelino, Rosario, Aurora, Marita, Erlinda, Restituto, and Anita, sisters Florentina, brother Donato, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the family ancestral home in Barangay Sapang Kawayan in Masantol, Pampanga.

Korean dentistry students want to take board exam

By Alcun Papa

KOREAN dentistry students on Friday filed a case before a Manila court to compel the Professional Regulation Commission to allow them to take the local board exam and grant the licenses of those who already passed the board.

The Korean Dental Students Association filed a 19-page petition before Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 51 against PRC Chair Antoneita Fortuna-Ibe and PRC Commissioners Alfonso Abad and Avelina de la Rea-Tan.

There are around 10,000 Korean students studying in different universities and colleges in the country. Of these, 700 are members of the Korean Dentistry Students Association (KDSA).

Oh Dong Hun, spokesperson of the group, said the PRC does not allow students from South Korea and other countries to take licensure examinations in the Philippines.

He said they found this out only this month when some of them tried to file their applications to take the dentistry board exams in May. They said they were surprised to learn that the PRC barred them from taking the board exams.

In March of 2000, the PRC under then chair Hermogenes Pobre allowed foreign students to take local licensure examinations. But in resolution No. 2001-22 dated Oct. 9, 2001, the PRC under

Fortuna-Ibe changed the rules and decided not to allow foreign students to take board exams, effectively voiding Pobre's resolution.

The PRC said foreigners taking the licensure exam "is a useless exercise" because "even if they pass the examination, they cannot practice their profession in this country, nor can they use the results of said examination for registration as professionals in their own country."

But according to Oh, the South Korean government requires its expatriate students to produce evidence that they were able to take licensure exams in the country where they studied, before they are allowed to take the board in their country.

A Philhealth card for every Caviteño

From page A21

households. And in two or three years' time, every Caviteño will have a Philhealth card.

Who will pay the insurance premium?

Dr. Godwyn Bernardo, provincial consultant for health sector reform, said the governor, Cavite's three congressmen (Rep. Plaridel Abaya of District I, Rep. Gilbert Remulla of District II and Rep. Napoleon Beracho of District III) and the town and city mayors of the province have agreed to share the payment of the insurance premium.

Maliksi has already signed the memorandum of agreement with Philhealth.

Dr. Bernardo says that since last March, the city and municipal social workers have been conducting surveys in every barangay to come up with a list of "truly poor who will get first crack at the insurance coverage."

"The governor is confident that we can meet the target of enrolling 100,000 households this year," the doctor says.



GOV. MALIKSI discusses the Philhealth coverage plan with Dr. Godwyn Bernardo, provincial health reform sector consultant.

With dignity

Bernardo says it helps facilitate the process that some municipalities and cities have already enrolled some of their constituents in Philhealth, like the town of Magallanes and Tagaytay City. "Under the governor's health insurance program, Magallanes and Tagaytay will be able to enroll more of their people with

Philhealth," he says.

Upon enrolment and payment of premiums, a household head is issued a Philhealth card jointly signed by the governor, his congressman and mayor.

The card, according to Dr. Bernardo, will entitle the holder, spouse and dependents (who should be less than 21 years old) to seek with "dignity quality medical treatment in any of the

27 public and private hospitals in Cavite accredited so far by Philhealth."

The card will also be honored in any Philhealth-accredited hospital anywhere in the country, he adds.

Paying patients

"No more will poor Caviteños beg for money to take family members to the hospital," says Bernardo. "When he seeks treatment in any accredited hospital, he will be a paying patient now like the rich. His insurance will cover practically all the expenses he will incur in seeking medical attention, from consultations to medicines to major operations."

While serving as a district congressman after his 10 years as mayor of Imus, Maliksi pumped a sizeable part of his countryside development fund into a medical trust fund with Philippine General Hospital.

After benefiting over 10,000 Caviteños, who were mostly too poor to even afford consultation, the tie-up with PGH still carries some remaining money, which the governor uses to help deal

with the same health problems his constituents bring to his office seven days a week.

That the former mayor, who placed the town of Imus in the world map as the Christmas capital of the Philippines, has never been hospitalized for nearly half his life is no secret. He sticks to his daily early-morning regimen of brisk walking and jogging and is very fastidious with the quality of the food he eats.

No matter how late he sleeps, he always rises before the sun does. After a cup of his favorite coffee, he is shuttled to his farm in the town of Malagasang, five minutes away from his Bayang Luma residence in Imus.

In the company of his trusted men, he sweats it out for at least one hour, alternately jogging or brisk walking, a workout he has been doing for over 20 years now. He then takes a quick shower before attending to his daily stream of callers whether he is at home, in his farm or at the provincial capitol in Trece Martirez City.

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Town Plaza

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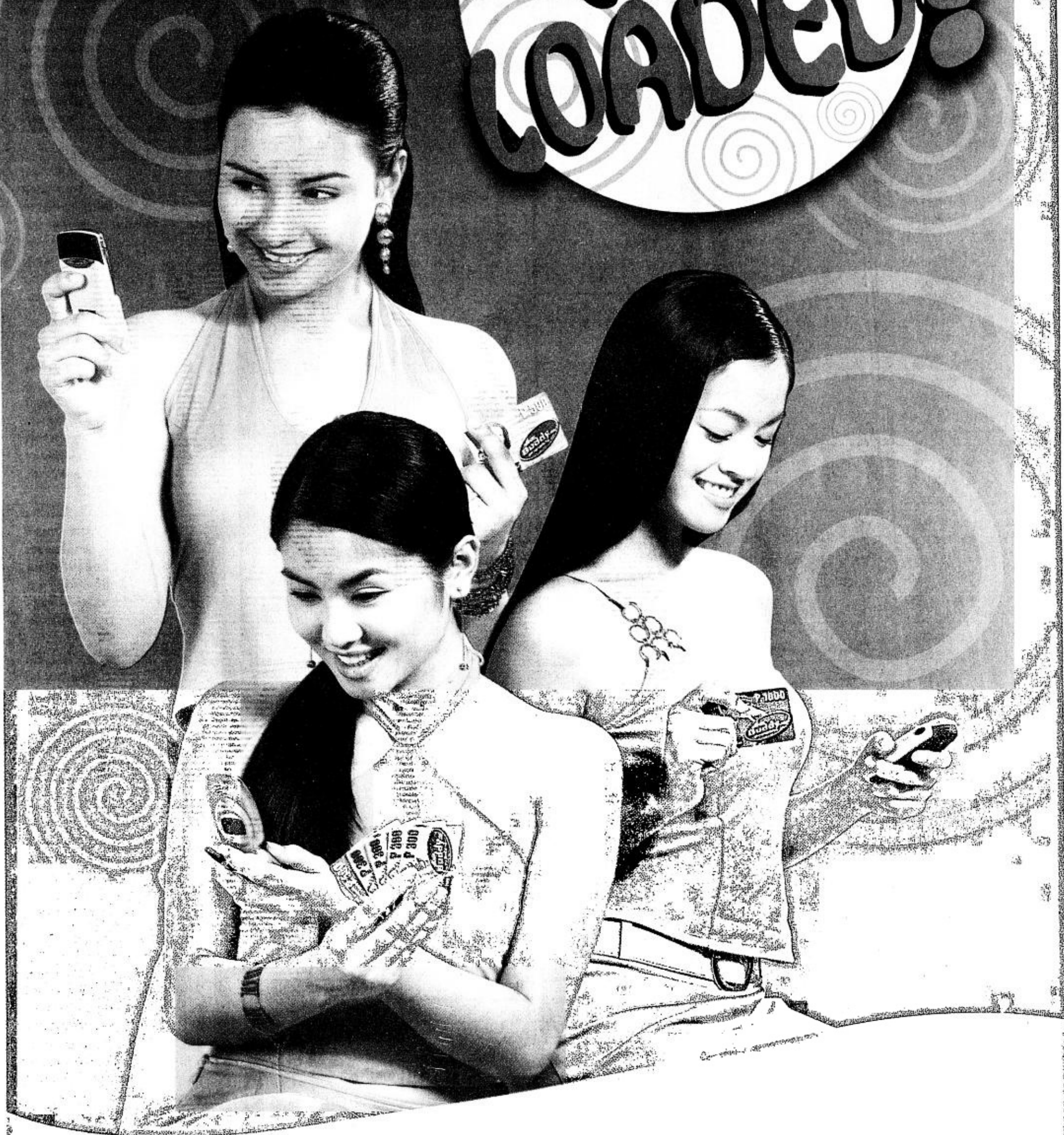
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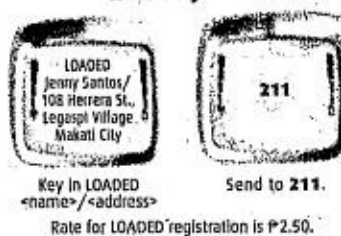
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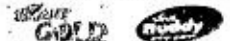
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SundayBIZ

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

From bad typist to conductor of multibillion ventures

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

NOT MANY know her but her name usually crops up when people talk about some of the biggest business ventures in the country.

Evelyn R. Singson's latest "baby" is the Asian Hospital, a P4-billion medical establishment in Alabang, which will give the Makati Medical Center a run for its

money because of its state-of-the-art technology and hotel-like ambience. The hospital has quietly been operating since March with formal opening slated on May 11.

While her task over the past years has been to orchestrate major projects, time was when Singson was so inefficient in her work that her boss told her that she might have to rethink her choice of job.

She was then a clerk-typist at the former Far East Bank and Trust Co., her first job after finishing Com-

merce at the Assumption Convent.

"I realized early in life I was not a good typist. My boss brought out all the bad paper I used up because of my bad typing. I wasted so much bond paper," she recalls.

She quit after a month and decided to go to a CPA (certified public accountant) review school. She passed and joined SGV & Co., one of the country's top accounting firms.

She worked as an auditor for two-and-a-half years where she had a monthly salary of about

FROM/ B2



SINGSON quit her job and armed herself with a degree to get a high-paying job.

Making way for Pangasinan's money-making Bs

By Yolanda Fuentes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Pangasinan, one of the largest provinces in Northern Luzon, is known for its fine beaches.

But many associate the province with its more popular "Bs"—its tasty bangus (milkfish), its appetizing bagoong (fish paste) and the sweet bocayo (grated coconut candy).

While one has to come to Pangasinan to enjoy its beaches, the province's bangus, bagoong and bocayo can be sampled anywhere.

"We are conquering the world with the three Bs. Since Filipinos are all over the world, the food they grew up with cannot be far behind," said Jaime Lucas, provincial manager of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Bangus

Dagupan City Mayor Benjamin Lim said there is great potential in exporting bangus. With over 7 million Filipinos working and living abroad, a great market awaits Pangasinan's bangus, he said.

But the Philippines' national fish is a hit not only among Filipino consumers.

The Tops Magazine, published by the Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc., said in its October-December 2000 issue: "In the United Kingdom, Commercial Attaché Vicente Casim said oriental food such as bangus is gaining popularity among consumers. A (United Kingdom) company has in fact started importing frozen bangus from the Philippines in November last year."

The DTI has been pushing the export of bangus, especially since the Bonuan bangus variety from this city has carved a name for itself as the tastiest variety in the country.

Natalie Basto of the Pangasinan DTI said three bangus exporters from the province are accredited by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

"But there are countless small-scale exporters," Basto said.

The "Big Three" are the Mele's Dagupan Seafoods, the MF Sandoval Trading and the Anjo Farms Inc. in San Fabian town. These firms export processed bangus such as the boneless and marinated whole bangus, marinated choice cuts (belly, fillet or shanghai), smoked, patties, relleno, nuggets, siomai (dumpling), fish balls and bangus longganisa.

"No part of bangus is wasted as the bone is made into polvoron, the skin into chicharon and the innards into a distinctive kind of bagoong," Basto said.

Bolinao

Bolinao, which is fast overtaking Dagupan in terms of bangus production, has set its eyes on the international market, too.

However, the town was hit recently by successive fish kills that affected its aquaculture industry and its bangus production.

Provincial administrator Virgilio Solis Jr., whose family operates several hectares of fish pens in the town, said bangus producers in Bolinao were planning to export fresh bangus monthly to Asian countries and the United States.

"The local market for bangus is getting smaller because many provinces are already producing bangus, which is why we have to tap the export market," Solis said.

But he claimed bangus from other provinces could not compare with those produced in Pangasinan, the province being synonymous with bangus.

About 13,000 ha of fishponds in 14 towns and three cities in the province are devoted to bangus culture.

To support the bangus industry, the BFAR has established a bangus hatchery in Barangay Bonuan in Dagupan City.

Westly Rosario, BFAR center director, said the hatchery hopes to provide all the fingerling needs

MAKING/ B3



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SOME of the largest bangus from Pangasinan.

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Ford Alabang, Makati: 842-1011, 842-1012, 842-1013, 842-1014, 842-1015, 842-1016, 842-1017, 842-1018, 842-1019, 842-1020, 842-1021, 842-1022, 842-1023, 842-1024, 842-1025, 842-1026, 842-1027, 842-1028, 842-1029, 842-1030, 842-1031, 842-1032, 842-1033, 842-1034, 842-1035, 842-1036, 842-1037, 842-1038, 842-1039, 842-1040, 842-1041, 842-1042, 842-1043, 842-1044, 842-1045, 842-1046, 842-1047, 842-1048, 842-1049, 842-1050, 842-1051, 842-1052, 842-1053, 842-1054, 842-1055, 842-1056, 842-1057, 842-1058, 842-1059, 842-1060, 842-1061, 842-1062, 842-1063, 842-1064, 842-1065, 842-1066, 842-1067, 842-1068, 842-1069, 842-1070, 842-1071, 842-1072, 842-1073, 842-1074, 842-1075, 842-1076, 842-1077, 842-1078, 842-1079, 842-1080, 842-1081, 842-1082, 842-1083, 842-1084, 842-1085, 842-1086, 842-1087, 842-1088, 842-1089, 842-1090, 842-1091, 842-1092, 842-1093, 842-1094, 842-1095, 842-1096, 842-1097, 842-1098, 842-1099, 842-1100, 842-1101, 842-1102, 842-1103, 842-1104, 842-1105, 842-1106, 842-1107, 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IN YOUR FACE

BY L.P. LEVISTE



CESAR V. Purisima is the head of SGV & Co., the country's largest auditing firm, which recently dropped its partner Arthur Andersen when the latter became involved in the Enron scandal—the biggest to involve an auditing firm. It then went into a partnership with Ernst & Young, acquiring Punongbayan and Araullo. Did the Enron scandal turn out to be a blessing in disguise?



STORES Asia 2002 Expo will be held on Aug. 7-9. Organized by the Philippine Retailers Association, it will feature the latest tools for global retailing. Photo shows PRA secretary general Evelyn B. Balmeo Salire; SM Shoemart SVP for Stores Operations and Expo co-chair Jorge T. Mendiola; AD-Van president Richard Barria; and Sportshouse CEO and Expo chair Mars C. Chua. For details, call 687-4985/4180/4181 or email pra@nwave.net.

Resonant leadership touches the heart first

"Primal Leadership"

Daniel Goleman, Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee
Harvard Business School Press, 2002

By Dante M. Velasco

WHEN popularity ratings of leaders (including presidents) fall, analysts focus on issues they failed to address—the economy, unemployment, peace and order, and wrangling political factions.

Despite so much analysis, these political observers don't go to the heart of the problem—which (pardon the pun) is the collective heart of the Filipino. This should be more than an emotional appeal on television, for example, that only succeeds in stimulating our lachrymous glands.

According to this book, this certainly is not a leader who is "clueless"—"who tries to resonate in a positive tone, but who is actually out of touch and out of tune."

The book, "Primal Leadership," makes important and eye-opening distinctions: There are resonant and dissonant leaders.

Emotions can, of course, be manipulated. The book describes leadership situations that are uncannily familiar to us.

In a boxed item on "demagogues," the book's description is close to home:

"Demagogues elicit negative emotions, particularly a mix of fear and anger: the threat to 'us' from 'them,' and the dread that 'they' will take what 'we' have."

The book continues: "Their message polarizes people rather than unites them in a common cause. They 'fan the flames' of ethnic hatred or a class war.

So, what is resonant leadership? This is one which is "attuned to people's feelings and move them in a positive emotional direction," the book

points out.

Thus, a resonant leader is he who, "speaking authentically from his own values and resonating with the emotions of those around him, hits just the right chords with his message." When a leader triggers resonance, you can read it in people's eyes: They are engaged and they light up.

You ask: Did a President's "Ina ng Bayan" series trigger resonance? Did it so touch people's hearts that they now say: Let's follow our leader!

But, there must be some dissonance somewhere. Is there a gap between what is said and what is preached? These questions are actually meant to bring the President's handlers closer to evaluating the campaign accurately so that a program of projecting the President truly delivers the authentic person in her. And thus "connect" with the people.

The book, based on leadership and organizational studies, suggests a way in evaluating one's leadership style—and then go for the needed change. The authors prescribe the "five discoveries."

EXECUTIVE READ

The book could just have titled the process simply, but it has chosen to use "discovery"—for a reason.

The introspecting leader goes through the process of "discovering or rediscovering" himself. Such "discoveries" cover the leader's "ideal self," then his "real self," followed by his "learning agenda" and subsequent "experimentations on new behaviors and thoughts"—and finally, developing supporting and trusting relationships.

These may sound simple enough, but the authors have scientific discoveries, case studies and a successful track record with CEOs to make you believe them. There was this CEO, a hotshot in R & D as scientist, who was promoted to his "level of incompetence" (according to time-tested Peter Principle) as R & D division head.

His new job required from him leadership qualities, not technical expertise, that he was not prepared for. He failed initially. Until he went through the journey of five discoveries.

PRIMAL LEADERSHIP

REALIZING THE POWER OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

DANIEL GOLEMAN
Author of the New York Times bestseller Emotional Intelligence
RICHARD BOYATZIS
ANNIE MCKEE

Many books have discussed this many times enough, but did not identify what these leaders lack except to generalize that they are not meant to be managers or leaders.

It turns out—that all they need is to develop "resonant leadership"—one that touches the heart of people, and then the mind. Understandably, the authors believe that "leaders are made, not born." That "nurture" can alter "nature."

This is not your usual motivational book on leadership. It has scientific moorings, including a "neuroanatomy of leadership." The authors go somehow technical when they discuss parts of the brain that respond to resonant leaders. This is a slow analytical read when you reach this part.

Leadership styles go by various names and titles depending on theories being advanced. Early on, we were taught about Theory X and Theory Y, the latter being the more enlightened approach.

Parallel to this is the debate between what style is effective—one of a task master or a "process person." These have been sufficient to persuade us to go for Theory Y or for the process.

Until this book came. This well-thought-out study, coming from a school that has been producing hot shot MBAs that run "Corporate America," brings you inside the brain—and there discover that the key to inspiring people in organizations, in armies or an entire country is lodged in the human heart. (dantemv@i-next.net)

A business hotel amid a hacienda

AS YOU DRIVE into the sprawling land of the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita, you catch a refreshing glimpse of the countryside.

As you drive further, you pass the second checkpoint. Into the Central Business Park, past the Sanyo building on your left, you slow down and you see an attractive yellow and blue structure. Further down the road into the driveway, you are greeted by the doorman who ushers you into the hotel's quaint lobby.

Inside, you don't see your typical front desk. A Tarlac lass leads you to the chair in front of her desk. She talks about the hotel, Tarlac, Hacienda Luisita, the nearby shopping complex and the next thing you know, you're inside your Zen-inspired hotel room.

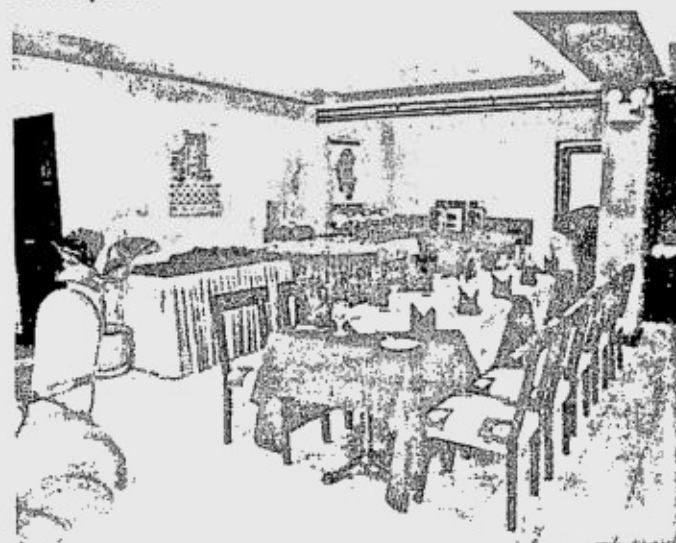
Each and every one of Central Park's 41 rooms are furnished with Zen-inspired décor and equipped with individual air-conditioning units, bedside telephone with IDD/DDD, dataport for fax and computer, 21" flat screen with cable channels, mini bar, electronic keycard system and centralized hot water system.

Owned and managed by the SJD Holdings Corp., this P100-million property is situated at the Central Business Park within Hacienda Luisita. With the opening of its doors in late 2000, Central Park Hotel, is the first hotel to offer first-class facilities and services to business and leisure travelers in the booming province of Tarlac. Its main market are the short- and long-term guests of the Central Business Park's locators, which include International Electric Wires Philippines Corp., International Wiring Philippines, Marina Sales Inc., Phelps Dodge Energy Products Corp., Purefoods Corp., Sanyo Capacitor Philippines Corp., Sanyo Semiconductor Manufacturing Philippines Corp., URC-Teria Industrial Corp. and business travelers and conference organizers/participants from Metro Manila, Bulacan, Pampanga, Pangasinan and Baguio. Family and leisure travelers come to the hotel on the weekends.

The hotel is embarking on their P40-million Phase 2 which will include an additional 40 rooms, a spa, swimming pool and a campsite for corporate retreats, camping and team-building activities and additional conference and banquet facilities.



ALL rooms at Central Park Hotel are tastefully furnished and Zen-inspired.



BISTRO Azucar offers all-day dining with Filipino, Asian and international a la carte specialties and light snacks and cocktails.



CENTRAL Park Hotel—where you enjoy both the trappings of a city hotel and warm, hacienda hospitality



HOTEL guests have access to the 18-hole championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. at the nearby Luisita Golf & Country Club.

From bad typist to conductor of multibillion ventures

From page B1

P400 a month. Although she got an increase every six months, "I figured it would take me forever to get the salary that would give me the lifestyle I wanted."

She quit and asked her parents to finance her graduate degree at the Northwestern University where she took up her Master in Business Administration.

"I was impatient. I wanted to fast track my career so I took up MBA at Kellogg," she says adding that at that time, the MBA degree cost about \$20,000 to \$25,000. That was in the late '60s.

After two years she decided to come home. Staying in the United States was not an option to her because she says she was homesick.

Armed with a graduate degree from one of the best American business schools, Singson received numerous job offers.

"I chose the company that paid the most," she recalls. That was the Bancom Development Corp., the think tank and investment bank in the '70s that was led by economist Sixto Roxas, who is now a foreign undersecretary. The firm offered her P1,400 a month.

Singson stayed with Bancom for 11 years and she quickly rose from the ranks.

"I learned so much, I traveled a lot and met so many people. I rose from analyst to SVP," she says.

From Bancom, she was pirated by Security Bank where she was its EVP. From there she moved on to do what she really likes to do.

"I like to build and see projects put together. I like the challenge of seeing something created," she shares.

She was involved in setting up the Asian Petroleum Corp., an oil exploration firm which was later acquired by the group of former Trade and Industry Minister Roberto V. Ongpin and made into a subsidiary of the Belle Corp.

She was also involved with Western Union, the money transfer firm.

Her resumé lists current affiliations such as director of ETR Development Corp., Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc., Philippine Hoteliers Inc., Crystal Corp. of the Philippines, Philipp Holzman APC Inc., Pryce Properties Corp., treasurer of Four Treasures Development Corp., president of Environment and General Services Inc., president of Gil-Edged Properties, chair of Asian Hospital Inc., director and EVP of First Asian Industrial Corp. and the APC Group Inc.

"When I get involved in something, I put my heart into it," she says. She had been wanting to set up

a hospital for a few years now and had casually met with a Singaporean group, Vista Healthcare. A famous Filipino surgeon, Jorge Garcia was also trying to work out his dream of building a hospital in the country.

By a twist of fate, the two met and they set their dreams into motion. Dr. Garcia took care of the medical aspect and also put together a group of investors. Singson worked out financing and investors.

Among the hospital's shareholders are Insular Life, D.M. Consunji, and Health Delivery Systems Inc., a subsidiary of Unilab.

One talent that has helped Singson go far has been her ability to read financial statements. As she says, she can read a story in annual reports.

She says based on her experiences, many projects fail because investors did not give the projects their full attention.

"There are so many variables that you have to juggle at the same time. Many proponents go into a project for the short term. You have to recover your investments from the success of the project and not at the expense of other people. If you think ahead of the others, then you are just outwitting others.

But you have to convince them that the best results come when the company is successful," she says.



AT THE lobby of the hospital, Evelyn Singson has balanced career and family. She has four children and is married to a former SGV partner.

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2002

Making way for Pangasinan's money-making Bs

From page B1

in the province and the entire Luzon area in the future.

Lucas said officials of the St. John Cathedral Multipurpose Cooperative, which processes *bangus*, have proposed the establishment of a cold storage food processing plant in the city.

"This would be a big help to our exporters of boneless *bangus* which process their produce at the FTI (Food Terminal Inc.) complex in Taguig, Metro Manila," Lucas said.

'Bagoong'

Bangus, especially when grilled, goes well with *bagoong* as a dip. But *bagoong* production is still confined to households in the villages of Pangapisan Norte and Maniboc in Lingayen, the capital town.

But do not be deceived by the seemingly humble industry as Pangasinan's *bagoong* has been going around the country and the world,

thanks, too, to Filipinos whose taste buds long for the native *bagoong*.

Demy Macam, owner of the E-Mars Enterprises, a leading *bagoong* exporter, said the centuries-old industry started when coastal residents wanted to preserve their abundant catch from the Lingayen Gulf.

"What came out was *bagoong*, and hence our villages became *bagoong*-makers," she said.

Ironically, harvest from the Lingayen Gulf has dwindled through the years, and the *bagoong* makers have to buy fish from as far as Quezon province and Bicol region for their supply.

Imitated but never equaled, *bagoong* from Pangapisan and Maniboc villages in Lingayen have found their way to various provinces in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao.

"While the other regions have the fish, they cannot make *bagoong* the

way we do. Maybe it's because of the salt we use which is cooked and not sun dried. Or maybe because we ferment our *bagoong* in earthen jars," Macam explained.

She said their biggest export market is still the United States, specifically Hawaii, where many Ilocanos, whose penchant for *bagoong* is unquestioned, have settled.

E-Mars Enterprises exports 800 cans (50 pounds each) of *bagoong* at least eight times a year to different countries.

"We have different types of *bagoong* for different people," she said. "Some like theirs red so we put a little food color. Others like it black. Some prefer to have big fish, others want the fish small."

E-Mars pioneered the production of the "boneless *bagoong*," when one of their customers told them that she wanted only the sauce and none of the fish.

"I had to strain the *bagoong* for her and I thought, there must be a market for boneless *bagoong*," she said.

The fish used for *bagoong* include anchovy, *alamang* (shrimp fry) and *terong* (bonnet mouth), a pink fish which is the only species for *bagoong* production approved for export in the United States.

Macam said *terong*, which *bagoong* makers get from Bicol and Quezon, is now available in Zambales.

"They're back after the US base there was closed," she said.

The *bagoong* industry generates employment in the villages that everyone is busy from morning until night. E-Mars alone employs about 40 people.

"Even students want to work but we discourage them because once they earn money, they stop going to school," Macam said.

Many of her workers are college graduates, who would rather work

in a *bagoong* factory than in government or private corporations "because they can earn more here."

But Lucas said Thailand has gone ahead in the international market of *bagoong*.

"Most of our *bagoong* makers are contented with the local market. If they do not become aggressive in marketing internationally, one day they may wake up and find that even their local market is gone," he said.

'Bocayo'

After partaking of *bangus* dipped in appetizing *bagoong*, there's the *bocayo* to complete a meal.

"Unfortunately, among Asians, only the Filipinos are sweet-

toothed so the market for *bocayo* is limited," Lucas said.

But the province's *bocayo*, many produced in Barangay Pangapisan Sur in Lingayen, has its share of the market, too.

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COOL SUMMER AT AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES

Get wacky and wet playing water games at the pool. See who gets the day's biggest catch at the fishing wharf. And then imagine building your weekend home on a ridgetop with a breathtaking, 360-degree view of Laguna de Bay, Mt. Makiling and Tagaytay.

Families and guests escape from the sweltering city setting and gather at Ayala Greenfield Estates in Calamba, Laguna on Sunday, May 5, 2002 for the inauguration of the first phase of the Loocsin-designed Nature Park Clubhouse. The community clubhouse is just one of many construction milestones in the site.

The summer fun begins at 8 a.m. with a Mass and ceremonial blessing of the community clubhouse. This clubhouse, located inside the 15-hectare amenity core of the subdivision – the Nature Park, will be inaugurated by executives of Ayala Land Inc., and Greenfield Development Corporation, two of the

country's most reputable real estate companies, and developer of Ayala Greenfield Estates. Guests can learn about landscape designing from the well-renowned Sanders, or have a frolicking time playing water games at the pool. A bubble show will keep kids entranced while a live acoustic quartet serenades patrons lounging at the coffee shop and the pool area. A variety of opportunities for leisure will be available to guests on Sunday – adult and kiddie swimming pools, skating rink, children's play area, fishing lagoon, billiard tables, card and video gameroom among others.

More accessible than Tagaytay and Baguio, Ayala Greenfield Estates will soon become the ultimate leisure destination and the most-talked about new community south of Metro Manila. Swim, socialize or simply soak up the sights; visit Ayala Greenfield Estates this Sunday. For inquiries, please call 850-6953; 848-6058; 841-5512 to 24.

ADVT.

*Finally, a Loocsin building you can enter
without being all dressed up.
The Ayala Greenfield Estates Village Clubhouse.*



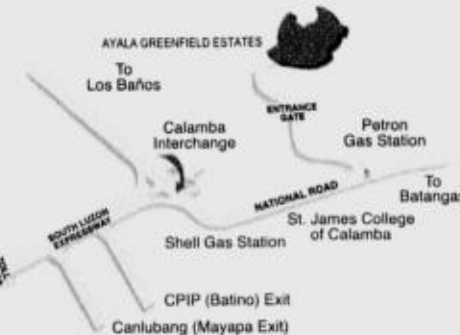
Photo taken on site.

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES



AN AYALA SOUTH COMMUNITY

Designed by Leandro V. Locsin and Partners, the Ayala Greenfield Estates village clubhouse, now stands in perfect glory with its clean Balinese-inspired lines, high ceilings and commanding view of the surrounding gardens. Beyond the majestic structure, one can take delight in its completed recreational facilities – a social hall, a game room with video games and billiards, gym, massage rooms, steam rooms and a coffee shop – along with the infinity pool, the multi-purpose rink, and the toddler's play area. Visit the site today and experience the completed view corridor, lagoon and multi-purpose playing field.



Please call site at 850 6953 (Monday to Sunday) or Ayala Land Inc., Sales and Marketing Services Group at 841 5512 to 26 or 848 5331 (Monday to Friday).

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Bacolod's grand Masskara at Festival Supermall today

IT'S A GRAND fiesta at the Festival Supermall. See, hear and experience the famous Masskara Festival of Bacolod at the heart of Metro Manila when Festival Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang hosts this grand mardi gras right inside the mall. The spectacle is ongoing until May 7.

Welcoming the merry fiesta month of May with festive and colorful décor, including kiping chandeliers from Quezon Province, Festival Supermall captures the sights and sounds of the Masskara Festival for all its mall patrons. This annual revelry, held every October, has made Bacolod a prime tourist destination.

"It's our way of enhancing the appreciation of our people, particularly those who live in

southern Metro Manila, of the beauty and grandeur of our colorful native celebrations," says Rose Nuqui, marketing division head.

The Masskara Festival, coined from the English word "mass" which means the multitude, and the Spanish word "kara" or "face", showcases the jubilant creativity and passionate spirit of the people of Bacolod. Wearing colorful masks, they dance in the streets to the infectious beat of Latin music in a stunning display of gaiety, coordination and stamina.

Nuqui says mall goers can have a chance to experience the Masskara Festival without having to spend or travel with the live performances of Masskara dancers flown in from the City of Smiles.

The grand prize winner of last year's street

dance competition, the Pahancoy Masskara Dance Group, performs its winning pieces around the mall from May 3 to 5, starting at 2 p.m. The provincial tourism department says the group is composed of 31 Masskara revelers whose youngest member is 14.

Nuqui also says people can also sample the native products and delicacies of Bacolod at a grand trade fair and exhibit until May 7 at the second level Carousel Court.

Festival Supermall is the largest shopping, dining and entertainment complex in southern Metro Manila, with over 400 specialty stores and restaurants. For more information, call the marketing division office at 850-3517 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.



ITALIANNI'S OPEN ONCE MORE

The management and staff of Italianni's Restaurant (shown), with general manager Jean Paul Manuud (standing fourth from right), are all ready for the dining public. Reopened April 30, newly renovated Italianni's Restaurant is located at Greenbelt 2, Makati City—the most prestigious new address in Makati City that offers a wide selection of premiere dining options perfect for

intimate dinners, night-outs and business lunches. The restaurant also continues its credo Guest Requests are Never Denied (Grand) practiced by all Italianni's staff in the world. Italianni's Restaurant is known for serving the best authentic Italian-American cuisine in Manila. Its menu selection includes a variety of pastas, entrees, pizzas, seafood, and desserts.



NESTLÉ CAFÉ AT PHILTRANCO

Philtranco, the pioneering food company in the country, recently inaugurated the Philtranco Nescafé Passenger Lounge at its Pasay Terminal to improve services and amenities for Gold Service and air conditioned bus passengers—another first in the transport business. Nestlé Philippines, a global leader in quality consumer food and

drinks, will make its products available within the Passenger Lounge. Seen serving the first patrons are, from left, engineer Alex R. Yague, Jr., president of Philtranco, Leah C. Sarmiento, GM of Cadre Enterprises, Jojo I. Bolima, AVP of the food services department of Nestlé Philippines, and Gerardo C. Togle, VP for marketing of Philtranco.



'SWITCHES N' SWINGS' WINNERS

The 3rd Bticino Golf Trophy, dubbed "Switches N' Swings", was held at the Tagaytay Midland Golf Club recently. Pinky Amador graced the event. At extreme left is Legrand Phils. general manager Anthony Parent. Also shown are the winners in the tourney's Class

A, B and C divisions (from left) Rey Daquigan, Mike Pena, Ryan Abdon, Guido Valderrama, Abelardo Tan, and Erwin Rabino. Sponsors of the event were The Spa at RCBC Plaza, Jeweler International, I-Dent Clinic, Aqua Restaurant, and Air Philippines.



'THE KEYBOARD QUARREL'

Three of the country's young and extraordinary pedagogical performers Najib Ismail, Mary Anne Espina and Jonathan Arevalo Coo—pianists specializing in three-piano music—will hold their first concert on Saturday, May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall. Ticket prices are at P300 and P200, with a 50-percent

discount for students. This occasion will also feature Herminigildo Ranera conducting a chamber ensemble from selected members of the PPO, MSO, SMPPO, MPO and UST Symphony Orchestra. For more information, call 0918-5583262, 0919-4088762, 0919-3635609 or the MCO office at 813-3849.

Student bags 2002 PBBY Salanga writers' prize

EDGAR Samar, an AB Psych student at the Ateneo de Manila University, bagged the 2002 PBBY Salanga Prize. Samar is actually no newcomer when it comes to writing. His works have been previously published in Heights, Tomas, Musa and Junior Inquirer Magazine. Samar's award-winning story "Uuwi na ang Nanay Kong si Dama!" snatched him a gold medal courtesy of the National Library, plus P25,000 in cash from the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Samar will receive the prizes in formal ceremonies during the National Children's Book Day (NCBD) celebration on July 16 to be held at the CCP. The nationwide contest is open annually for all professional and aspiring writers in English or Filipino, and is sponsored by the Philippine Board on Books for Young People (PBBY).

For inquiries, call Jen at 372-3548 to 49, fax 372-4204, or e-mail pbby@adama.com.ph.

Good local harvest spells less imports to complete RP's buffer stock for rice

THE GOVERNMENT will import 195,000 MT of rice to further build up its buffer stock for the coming lean months.

An inter-agency committee that determines the volume of rice imports has recommended that 390,000 MT be brought in this year. This is about 50 percent lower than last year's imports of around 770,000 MT on account of the current good harvest in the country's paddy farms.

It has been observed that rice prices in the world market have been increasing, reaching about 30 percent more than last year's level. With this situation, it may be unprofitable for the private sector to import rice with a 50-percent tariff. The government, therefore, has to act fast in securing its food security stocks before world market prices rise further.

Bringing in the stocks early will not only save on cost but also ensure the smooth dispersal and positioning of food security reserves across the country, especially in the deficit areas.

The 195,000 MT shall be brought in by the Philippine International Trading Corp., the state trading corporation empowered to negotiate counter trade agreements with other countries, for and in behalf of the National Food Authority. This will form part of the country's food security requirement to ensure that the country has sufficient buffer stocks, especially with the reported El Niño phenomenon expected to occur this year.

The NFA shall also intensify paddy procurement from local farmers. This is in line with the directive of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the NFA to focus more on building its buffer stock from local sources.

New romance series from MSV

TO ANSWER the demand of My Special Valentine (MSV) pocketbook readers according to their age bracket and individual preference, Bookware Publishing Corp. has released four sets of new romance series to satisfy teenagers and adults, conservative and modern-type, and even the growing number of male patrons.

In every series, each story has its own ending but most of the characters in all titles are correlated, giving the feeling of excitement that never stops. These stories are:

Series 1 (The End of the Rainbow) with the titles that include "Pulang Laso ng Alaala," Dilaw ang

Palatandaan ng Pag-Ibig" and "Kung Minsan Luntian din ang Pag-Ibig."

Series 2 (My Princess Dreams) with the titles "Unspoken Love," "Wild Innocence," and "Kung Kailangan Mo Ako."

Series 3 (Villa Buenafrauco) with the titles "Shai's Island," "Amanda, My Runaway Girl," and "Be Mine, Barbara."

Series 4 (Heroes in Love) with the titles "Keith Jason," "Miguel de Saavedra," and "A Moment in Time."

The new romance series also contain the coupons for the ongoing Nokia 8310 raffle promo. For inquiries, call Dottie Pineda at 631-8893 to 94.

Product FILES

Urvan Estates up for grabs in Citibank promo

GOOD news to Citibank credit cardholders. Shop at any SM Department Store today and enjoy bigger chances of winning one of the three Nissan Urvan Estate luxury vans up for grabs in the ongoing "Win Luxury Vans with SM" raffle promo.

To join, shoppers only need to spend a minimum of P300 and they will be entitled to one raffle coupon. For Citibank cardmembers, P300 charged to your credit card will give you three raffle coupons. That's triple the chances of winning.

The promo is ongoing until May 31 at all SM branches in Cubao, Quilapo, Makati, Harrison Plaza, North Edsa, Sta. Mesa, Ortigas, Las Piñas, Bacoar, Fairview, Pampanga, Cebu and Davao.

Cardholders may use any of these Citibank credit cards: Citibank Gold or Silver Visa or MasterCard, Citibank Cathay Pacific Visa, Shell-Citibank MasterCard, Citibank Clear MasterCard, or the Citibank Visa Platinum.

Grand draw is on June 9. For more details, call the 24-hour Citibank Banking at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu, or 1-800-10-995999 in other provinces.

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AIM HONORS SYCIP, AQUINO

Washington SyCip, founder of the SGV Group and chair of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) was feted recently by the AIM when the institute's graduate school of business was renamed in his honor. Shown is AIM co-chair Jose Cuisia,

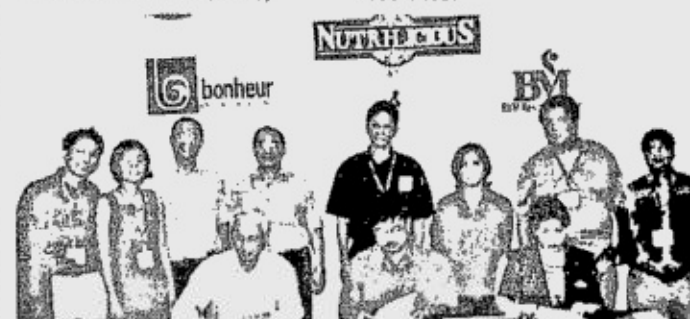
Jr. awarding a symbolic token to SyCip, along with former President Corazon Aquino. Aquino was named to the AIM board of governors, the first former Head of State and woman to be a governor of AIM.



PMA 33RD NATIONAL MARKETING CONFAB

The Philippine Marketing Association convenes its 33rd National Marketing Conference (NMC) on July 3 and 4 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. The two-day confab will be a celebration of marketing success stories by leaders in the field of marketing from the Philippines and Southeast Asia. Shown are the members of the NMC executive committee during its recent organizational meeting at the Elks Club (seated, from left) Tes Hernandez, chair of the administrative committee, Jos Ortega, overall chair of the 33rd NMC,

Marivic Afionuevo, PMA president, Cergen Go, director-in-charge, and Henry Tenedero, co-chair. Standing, from left, are Lennie Gunda, co-chair of the administrative committee, Ruby Ramores, chair of sponsorship, Hermie del Rosario, chair of marketing, Mon Alcaraz, chair of staging, Von Hilzon, chair of program, Monica Camus of BBDO, and Sonia de Guzman, co-chair of marketing. To avail of an early bird rate, call the PMA-NMC secretariat at 893-7127, 813-0466, 892-3144, 892-0978, 892-0979 or fax 892-3261, 892-0977 or 893-6459.



NUTRI-LICIOUS APPOINTS GMA DISTRIBUTORS

Nutri-licious Foods Corp., one of the country's leading manufacturers and exporters of premium fruit juices and other beverages recently appointed Bonheur Marketing Corp. and BVM Resources Inc. as the official distributors of Koolha Fun Drinks and other new and upcoming products of Nutri-licious. The move is in line with the company's thrust to make its products readily available to the consumers by expanding its distribution network within the

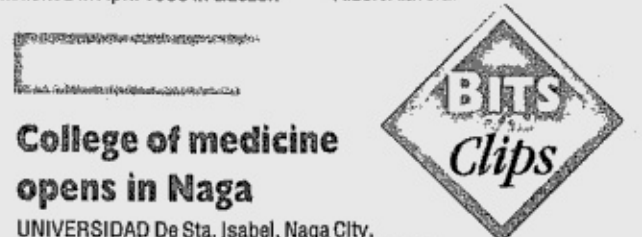
Greater Manila Area targeting sari-sari stores, convenience stores and supermarkets. Shown signing the contract are (seated, from left) Bonheur president Ernesto Ong, NFC president Rogelio Nemeño and BVM president Manette Acero. Also shown are (standing, from left) James Ranada and Arlene Llagas of NFC, Rudy Sienes and Rey Sangalang of Bonheur, Jo Caparas and Lhoy dela Cuesta of NFC, Raymond Acero of BVM and Cris Hernandez of NFC.



BURGOO AT THE PODIUM

Your favorite family restaurant, Burgoo American Bar and Restaurant, has finally arrived at the latest and premiere mall in town—The Podium along ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Burgoo takes pride as the first and only American bar and restaurant in the place with a 220-seating capacity. Operating under the name Specialty Restaurants Inc., this is the company's third and newest restaurant outlet, the first one established in April 1999 in Quezon

City and the second in Makati City in 2000. Shown cutting the ribbon during the grand opening were, from left, Burgoo's board chair Ma. Teresa Rodriguez, Ms. Philippines 2001 Carlene Aguilar, Charles Alexander of the US Department of Agriculture, Bb Pilipinas International 2001 Maricel Tolosa, Mandaluyong Mayor Benjamin Abalos, Jr., Mutya ng Pilipinas 2000 Josephine Canonizado and Burgoo's managing director Albert Alavera.



College of medicine opens in Naga

UNIVERSIDAD De Sta. Isabel, Naga City, announces the opening of its College of Medicine this school year 2002-2003. Enrolment is now ongoing. For more details, call Sister Justine I. Rosales, DC, president, Universidad de Sta. Isabel, Naga City at (054)473-8442.

Philips products at SM-Citibank Fiesta

TAKE YOUR pick of the latest and best in home entertainment equipment from Philips. Visit the SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta and get Philips' top-quality home entertainment equipment for the best deals. You can enjoy up to 0 percent interest on selected Philips audio and video equipment, or get amazing bargains on special premium items like Micro Hi-Fi systems, VCD players, and VCD movies. Rush now to SM Megamall's Megatrade Hall for outstanding home entertainment appliances from Philips. The event runs until May 5.



PCAFI OFFICERS OATH TAKING

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo administered the oath of office of the new set of officers and directors of the Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) held in Malacañang recently. They are (from left) Manuel A. Lim, Jr., ex officio director, Antonio V. Rocas, VP for Luzon, Executive

Secretary Bert Romulo, Col. Alex T. Escano, president, Felix R. Gonzales, director general, Vicente Castro, Alonso Tan, directors, Ernesto Hernandez, representing Alejandro Alcantara, VP for Mindanao, Ernesto Luy, director, Leon M. Arceo, VP for Visayas, and Alberto R.T. Lim, Jr., director.

Japan's delicate pearls dying, growers cry for help

ISE, JAPAN—The ancient Greeks called them the tears of the gods.

And in the Ise-Shima peninsula in central Japan where some of the most lustrous pearls in the world are grown, the milky-white gems have been considered divine blessings for the fortunes they have brought to the scenic but remote seaside villages.

Heavenly powers, however, have not helped local growers prevent viral infections and "red tides" of algae from killing large portions of their treasured oysters in the past couple of years.

A weak economy has further rubbed the luster off their profits.

Just when things looked as if they couldn't get worse, growers say unusually low water temperatures in the first few months of this year wiped out more than half their oysters and this year's harvest is set to be the worst in more than 40 years.

"It's a tragedy," said Masaru Koizumi, head of a local pearl growers' cooperative.

"Business has been bad in the past couple of years but growers have worked hard regardless. Many are now thinking of giving up."

Pearl growers, mostly working along the quiet Ago Bay in Ise-Shima, plan to ask the local government for financial assistance soon, Koizumi said. They also plan to turn to the state if things get any worse.

While help is likely to be minimal as the government struggles to fill its own coffers, growers say there is little other way to survive.

Delicate creatures

Their oysters, mostly of the Akoya variation prized for creating pearls with a satin-like texture and iridescence, are extremely delicate creatures.

They normally prefer cooler waters to protect themselves from viral infections and the oxygen-depriving red tides, both believed to be caused by a combination of factors such as

water pollution and climate change.

They also die when temperatures fall below 10 degrees Celsius. Particularly vulnerable are baby oysters being bred for future pearl cultivation.

Data collected by the cooperative showed water temperatures in the Ago Bay repeatedly fell below that threshold in January to March due to an unusual pattern of sea currents that scientists are still trying to figure out.

The red tide and viruses, however, may not be entirely unrelated to this year's damage.

Growers say the red tides and viral infections made their oysters weaker and easily spoiled by colder waters.

Some also believe the damage may have been magnified since they had crossbred their oysters with those from China, which are resilient to viruses but vulnerable to lower temperatures.

The cooperative's Koizumi said conditions this year appeared to be the worst since 1959, when the Ise Bay Typhoon ripped through the peninsula, killed nearly 5,000 people and rav-

aged the oyster beds.

The number destroyed by the chilly waters has not yet been tallied, but growers said about half the oysters in Ago Bay were probably dead and the damage could get worse as waters turned warmer and viruses and algae began wreaking havoc.

Annual production in the Ise-Shima area is likely to be cut to half the 4.3 billion yen (\$33.81 million) earned in the last fiscal year to end-March, already a fraction of the 15 billion yen earned a decade ago, said an official of a national growers' association.

Sinking economy

Kazunobu Ninomiya, president of Ninomiya Pearl, said he hadn't yet calculated the financial damage to his firm, which makes jewelry out of locally grown pearls.

"I suppose this might give prices a lift but what's the point if you have no pearls to start with," Ninomiya said.

Officials at upmarket purveyor Mikimoto, whose founder Kokichi Mikimoto perfected the art of creating perfectly round cultured

pearls a century ago, said its oysters grown off the peninsula appeared to be safe but they were running checks anyway.

Most other growers were less fortunate. Ninomiya said it would likely take at least two years for the local industry to recover.

"It takes a few years to cultivate oysters of a certain quality. In the meantime, some will have nothing," he said.

Unfortunately, local businesses have been sinking along with the rest of the economy and offer few other job opportunities.

The peninsula's once-prominent timber industry is suffering from cheaper imports from other parts of Asia. A weaker domestic economy means nearby petrochemical and industrial plants need fewer hands.

But one pearl grower said he had never thought of doing anything else in the 20 years since leaving school to work alongside his father.

"Growing pearls isn't worth the effort nowadays," he said. "But it's the only thing I know how to do."

Reuters

Weak economy rubbed luster off profits from pearls.

Air France signs unique global marketing deal

KYTEAM, the world's No. 2 global airline alliance, and The Coca-Cola Company, the world's largest beverage company, recently announced the signing of a unique marketing agreement establishing Coke as SkyTeam's provider of soft drink beverages.

The agreement also paves the way for cross-promotional marketing efforts between SkyTeam and the soft drink company.

This agreement is the first of its kind—a marketing agreement made directly between an international airline alliance and a beverage company.

The SkyTeam-Coke partnership is supported by individual beverage agreements between SkyTeam's member airlines (Aeromexico, Air France, Alitalia, CSA Czech Airlines, Delta Air Lines and Korean Air) and their local Coca-Cola distributors.

With these agreements, more than 220 million passengers will enjoy Coca-Cola products on more than 8,200 daily SkyTeam flights.

"Through its joint marketing agreement with Coca-Cola, SkyTeam has set a new standard for collaboration between international airline alliances and corporations," the SkyTeam chief marketing officers said in a statement.

"The agreement underscores the alliance's collective buying power as a result of the co-operation among its members. Our unique agreement with Coca-Cola is an indication of more far-reaching agreements that we can collectively put forward in the future."

"We are thrilled that this new and innovative partnership strengthens our relationship with many of the world's top airlines and creates new opportunities for all of us to connect with new consumers around the world," said Stephen C. Jones, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of the Coca-Cola Company.

To complete the terms of the SkyTeam marketing agreement, member airline Air France switched to Coca-Cola as its primary soft drink beverage provider for an initial period of three years.

"This change of supplier will enable us to improve the range of products we provide to our customers," said Patrick Roux, vice president for Marketing and Quality for Air France.

The Air France agreement, which includes a marketing section providing for special operations and joint promotions, calls for serving 3 million liters of Coca-Cola products each year. The annual consumption of soft drinks by Air France passengers totals 15 million liters, including mineral water and fruit juices.

AIM sets homecoming

The Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Asia's premiere business graduate school, will mount an alumni homecoming on May 10, at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio Global City, with MBM Class '82 as host.

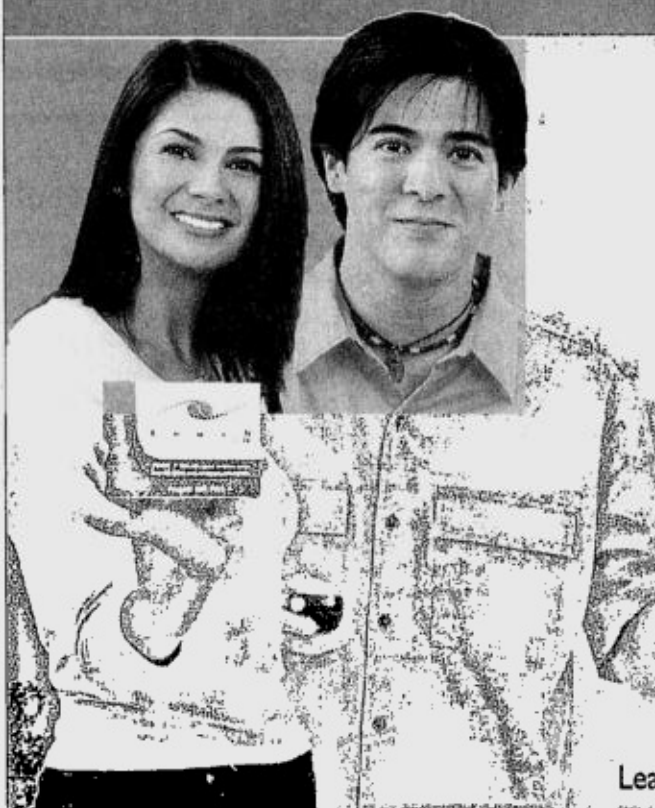
There will be an executive lecture series on May 7-9 at the ACCM in Makati.

For details, call Yoly Diaz de Rivera at 726-2334; fax no. 726-2349 or email sstation@philonline.com; Des Co of AIM-Alumni Relations Homecoming Secretariat at 892-4011 local 541; fax no. 893-7410; des@dataserve.aim.edu.ph; Weng Barte and Daycee Salimbagat of Alumni Association of AIM (Phil Chapter) at 750-1010 local 2103-2106.

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BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGER (OG-BAM)

- not over 35 years old
- graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- at least 3 years work experience in building administration

SELLING MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS (OG-SM/S)

- female, not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year business course
- at least 1 year experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS (OG-CSM/S)

- female, not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year business course
- with pleasing personality and enthusiastic in handling customer inquiries and concerns
- at least 1 to 2 years work experience in customer relations

COUNTER / CHECKING MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS (OG-CCM/S)

- female, not over 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year business course
- at least 1 year experience in counter or credit card transactions in the same capacity

WAREHOUSE MANAGERS / SUPERVISORS (OG-WM/S)

- male, not over 32 years old
- graduate of Commerce or Industrial Engineering
- with intensive experience in warehousing and other related functions

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE SUPERVISORS / REPRESENTATIVES (OG-CRS S/R)

- male, 5'5 1/2" in height; 22-32 years old
- female, 5'2" in height; 21-32 years old
- graduate of Criminology or at least 2nd year college
- flexible to different work assignments

Candidates for the position should have the following competencies:

- excellent communication skills, both in verbal and written forms
- can relate well to all levels of the organization
- proficient in computer software applications
- team-player, goal-oriented and able to work well under pressure

SUPPORT / ADMINISTRATION GROUP

TRAINING OFFICERS (SAG-TO)

- not over 32 years old
- graduate of Education, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year business course
- at least 2 years related work experience in human resource development
- knowledgeable in the conduct of training needs and analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of training programs and activities related to behavior and skills of employees

PERSONNEL OFFICERS / SUPERVISORS (SAG-PO/S)

- female, not over 32 years old
- graduate of Law, Psychology, Behavioral Science or any 4-year business course
- at least 3 years work experience in all facets of personnel management
- willing to work on weekends and holidays

ACCOUNTING OFFICERS / SUPERVISORS (SAG-AO/S)

- not over 32 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- at least 2 years related work experience in supervisory capacity and adept in all accounting operations

DESIGN OFFICERS (SAG-DEO)

- female, not over 28 years old
- graduate of Architecture, preferably licensed
- knowledgeable in AutoCAD application

DISPLAY OFFICERS (SAG-DO)

- not over 32 years old
- graduate of Fine Arts, Advertising or Interior Design or any 4-year related course
- at least 1 year experience in visual merchandising

COMPUTER OPERATORS / POS TECHNICIANS (SAG-CO / POS)

- not over 28 years old
- graduate of Computer Science / Engineering
- preferably with experience in the repair, trouble shooting and maintenance of cash registers

ENGINEERING OFFICERS (SAG-EO)

- male, not over 30 years old
- graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering, preferably licensed
- at least 1 year supervisory experience in building operations/property management

SECRETARY (SAG-SEC)

- female, not over 28 years old
- graduate of Economics, Management or any 4-year business course
- at least 1 year related work experience

NURSES (SAG-N)

- female, not over 32 years old
- graduate of BS Nursing, preferably licensed
- at least 2 years experience in medical establishment or as a Company Nurse

TREASURY SUPERVISORS (SAG-TS)

- female, not over 32 years old
- graduate of Accounting or Banking & Finance
- at least 2 years supervisory experience in accounting, funds management or treasury functions
- familiar with banking operations & Central Bank procedures

OFFICE ASSISTANTS (SAG-OA) (Human Resources * Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service)

- female, not over 25 years old
- graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Banking & Finance, Accounting or Computer Science

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resume
 with recent photo to:

The Recruitment Division Manager
 400 Carlos Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila

E-mail: Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

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Mesdames Maria Lina "Bing" Wood, MSN, ARNP, Nursing Director, and Gelahirma "Gel" Acuesta Awad, Filipino Nurse (IPAMS deployee to MCH last Jan. 16, 2002) will conduct selections and execute contracts in the following areas:

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- NCLEX review class
- INS Visa for US Embassy

Successful candidates are entitled to competitive rates depending upon experience, U.S. standard benefits, week-end (Fri/Sat/Sun) differential of USD 6.50 per hour premium. Overtime is open with night differential benefits.

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is in need of the following

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- Computer literate, familiar with AutoCAD
- 25 to 35 years old
- Familiar with General Construction supervision

CIVIL ENGINEER

- Licensed, minimum of 5 years work experience
- Computer literate, familiar with AutoCAD
- 25 to 35 years old
- Knowledge in General Construction supervision

DRAFTSMAN

- Architecture graduate, at least 3 years experience
- Computer literate, familiar with AutoCAD

BOOKKEEPER

- Accounting grad., at least 24 years old, minimum of 3 years experience
- Computer literate (MS Word/Excel)
- Familiar with processing of government permits (taxes & licenses)
- Familiar with payroll prep & other accounting works

Bring Biodata/resumé with picture,
employment certificates. Contact Lorna
office tel. #925-1365 (by appointment only)

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HIGH SCHOOL and ELEMENTARY SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

- ✓ At least 5 years experience as school supervisor
- ✓ Has good moral character
- ✓ At least with Masters degree in Education

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888 6512, MAKATI



Community-Based Ecological Solid Waste Management System
in the Philippines

URGENT RECRUITMENT

An international organization implementing a community-based ecological solid waste management system in the Philippines is in search of a qualified individual for the post of

PROJECT COORDINATOR/MANAGER

Technical Accountabilities:

A. Project Management

1. Ensure the effective appraisal, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Project
2. Identify potential funding sources, and develop and submit proposals for the Project
3. Coordinate planning and review processes at the Project level, ensuring appropriate stakeholder participation
4. Ensure the timely administration of the Project including but not limited to the preparation of financial and project reports in compliance with required guidelines, systems and audit standards
5. Facilitate linking and learning across country, as well as regional/ international programs
6. Ensure effective liaison with both local government units (LGUs), national government agencies (DENR, MMDA, others), non-government partner organizations and other relevant national, regional and provincial groups working on solid waste management
7. Maintain effective information flow and analysis, and contribute to responses to general development issues and trends in solid waste management

B. Budget

1. Ensure the effective financial management of the Project, including budgeting, cash flow forecasting, fund transfers and documentation both at the Project and partner organization levels
2. Approve contractual commitments of the Project based on approval authority
3. Ensure adequate measures are in place to meet donor requirements

C. Human Resources

1. Ensure effective human resource management of the Project, including staff recruitment, selection, induction, performance appraisals, training and development

Qualifications:

1. An undergraduate degree in engineering or natural science, urban planning or any relevant discipline. An MS degree or units on relevant field would be an advantage.
2. At least five years experience in community-based ecological solid waste management and program management, including design, evaluation and policy development
3. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills as well as strong program planning and management skills including administrative and human resources management
4. Must have the capacity to link micro field-based project work with macro public policy issues
5. Must be proficient in the use of various MS Office application softwares, such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.

Remuneration: Gross salary of PHP 40,000.00 per month.

All application letters and comprehensive resume should reach our office on or before 8 May 2002. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Bldg., 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (632) 892-4528/892-0611 to 25, fax no. 816-4061; 893-8598, e-mail: bc_admin.ph@undp.org



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO)
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

Northern Mindanao Community Initiatives & Resource Management Project

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is pleased to announce the vacancies for the following positions in the Project Facilitation Office (PFO) based in Butuan City, and the Provincial Project Coordination Offices (PPCOs) based in Misamis Oriental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Surigao del Sur of the "NORTHERN MINDANAO COMMUNITY INITIATIVES AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT" with funding assistance from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

No. of Vacancies	Position/Duty Station
1	Project Director
1	Community Dev't/Gender Specialist
1	Upland Farming Systems Specialist
1	Fishery Specialist
1	Administrative Officer
1	Finance Officer
1	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
1	Clerks/Computer Operators
1	Drivers
5	PPCOs - Misamis Oriental, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur
5	Provincial Coordinator
5	Upland Agronomist
5	Community Development Officer
5	Infrastructure Specialist
5	Fishery Specialist
5	Health Services Specialist
5	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
5	Administrative Assistant
5	Clerks/Computer Operators
5	Drivers

Terms of References (TOR) for the positions may be obtained at the Foreign-Assisted Projects Office (FAPsO), 1st Floor, FAPsO Building, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Above positions are intended to be filled up by June 2002. Successful candidates may be hired on a contractual basis, renewable annually; or under secondment / detail arrangement for government personnel.

Applicants should submit five (5) copies of the following:

1. Signed letter of intent stating clearly the position applied for and the duty station preferred.
2. Accomplished Personal Data Sheet including detailed description of duties and responsibilities and accomplishments for each position held
3. Recent 2x2 photograph (attach to Personal Data Sheet)
4. For DAR employees who wish to apply, endorsement from Head of Office (Regional Director/PAO/Bureau Director)

Applications should be submitted to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FOREIGN-ASSISTED PROJECTS OFFICE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM
ELLIPTICAL ROAD, DILIMAN, QC

Deadline for applications is 13 May 2002. Incomplete applications will not be entertained. For inquiries, please contact Ms. Susan Perez or Ms. Vicky Dumayas at telephone numbers 927-0752 or 453-3633; or Ms. Nora Briones at telephone numbers 926-1667 or 926-8981.

Inquirer—April 28 & May 5, 2002

SALES STAFF WANTED

- Davao Resident
- M/F 25-35 years old
- Computer literate
- Sales and office experience

Send resumé with pic by mail to: Mari Tan
14-D F. Caruncho St., Barracks, Canlogan,
Pasig City. Tel. (02) 746-5248/0918-9107491

NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR)
is in need of

CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR

Qualifications:

- At least two years experience in publication work and/or broadcast communication
- Preferably with experience in planning, coordinating tri-media & public relations work
- Good written & oral communication skills
- Familiar with Community Based Coastal Resource Management & related laws and policies
- Flexible & well-rounded personality

Qualified individuals may send their letter of application & resumé to NFR secretariat at Room 403 CRM 3 Building, 106 Kamias Road, Quezon City or email it at ngos4fisheries@yahoo.com or at yvian21@titanium.net.ph not later than May 17, 2002



JT International is a company formed when the Japan Tobacco Group purchased the international operations of RJ Reynolds, Inc. In 1999. We are the world's third largest international tobacco company, manufacturing three of the world's top five cigarette brands - Camel, Mild Seven and Winston - and one of the world's leading menthol brands - Salem.

We are a truly global company with an international culture and an international pool of talented people based in more than 40 countries. Our employees are given the opportunity to pursue goals and to develop professionally; however, they are also encouraged to maintain a balance between professional and personal lives.

JT International (Philippines), Inc. - a subsidiary of JT International SA invites qualified candidates to apply for the following vacancies:

Sales & Distribution Manager

(Circa PHP 455,000 per annum)
(GMA: 1; Cebu: 1)

The jobholder will be responsible for the management of the assigned territory to achieve the Company's volume, availability and visibility objectives through effective planning, implementation and control of all aspects of the sales plans.

The ideal candidate must:

- Be a college degree holder and not more than 35 years old
- Have at least 3 to 5 years selling experience, preferably with fast moving consumer products
- Possess experience in managing Sales Representatives and Distributors
- Have excellent interpersonal skills and strategic thinking
- Be a self starter, a leader and at the same time a good team player
- Be results oriented and can work with minimal supervision
- Be able to work under pressure and willing to work long hours
- Possess high sense of discipline and integrity

Major responsibilities:

The successful candidate will report to the Sales & Distribution, Director and be responsible for the following:

- Managing sales teams to achieve volume and distribution objectives in an assigned territory
- Managing daily activities of Direct Distribution Operation and Distributors
- Developing and implementing sales & distribution plans in the assigned territory in accordance with the Company objectives
- Ensuring high in-market visibility and effective merchandising of Company brands

Sales Representative

(Circa PHP 156,000 per annum)
(GMA: 2; Cebu: 2)

The jobholder will be responsible for handling the sales of Company products to the selected channels in his assigned territory. The main duties are to ensure a high level of sales service to all the defined sales channels, their proper accounts receivable management; meeting the Company's in-store availability and visibility objectives; and capitalizing on business opportunities in all selected channels.

The ideal candidate must:

- Be between 24-30 years old; preferably male
- Possess a professional driver's license and with minimum 2 years driving experience
- Have at least 2 years working experience in selling, preferably in fast moving consumer products
- Be a self starter, results oriented and can work under pressure and even on extended hours
- Possess high sense of discipline and integrity

Assistant Sales Representative

(Circa PHP 98,800 per annum)
(GMA: 2; Cebu: 2)

The jobholder will be responsible for assisting the Sales Representative in product selling and in-store placement of temporary merchandising materials and ensuring the assigned van security.

The ideal candidate must:

- Be between 25-30 years old, preferably with sales experience
- Possess a professional driver's license and with minimum 2 years driving experience
- Possess high sense of discipline and integrity

Sales Accounts Clerk

(Circa PHP 117,000 per annum)

The jobholder will be responsible for handling the direct distribution operation sales reconciliation and administrative functions including sales volume information update. The main duties are to ensure the daily and monthly sales reconciliation and accounts receivables management in accordance with the company procedures.

The ideal candidate must:

- Be a college degree holder with Accounting major
- Have at least 2 years working experience handling sales accounts and administrative functions.
- Be a self starter, results oriented and can work with minimal supervision
- Be computer literate
- Be able to work under pressure and even on extended hours
- Possess high sense of discipline and integrity

Logistics / Storekeeper

(Circa PHP 117,000 per annum)

The jobholder will be responsible for handling the direct distribution operation warehouse stocks inventory and products logistics arrangement. The main duties are to ensure the warehouse stocks and logistics management are in accordance with the Company procedures.

The ideal candidate must:

- Have at least 2 years working experience handling warehousing, product importation and logistics
- Be a self starter, results oriented and can work under pressure and even on extended hours
- Be computer literate
- Possess high sense of discipline and integrity

Interested applicants for the above positions may submit their resume, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo not later than **May 17, 2002** to:

The Sales & Distribution, Director
JT International (Philippines), Inc.
14th Flr., Units 1401/02 Galleria Corporate Center
EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City

Confidential Secretary

(Circa PHP 234,000 per annum)

The jobholder will be responsible for performing secretarial and administrative duties for Senior Executives and for the full assistance and support in the Company's human resource functions.

The ideal candidate must:

- Be between 24-30 years old; preferably female
- Preferably be a Philosophy or Mass Communication graduate with at least 2 years actual working experience in secretarial and/or human resource related functions
- Possess considerable personal tact, integrity, judgment and initiative
- Have excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Have confidentiality skills and with a high degree of flexibility and diplomacy
- Be computer literate especially in word processing and powerpoint presentations
- Be enthusiastic, dedicated and a good team player
- Possess high sense of discipline and integrity

Interested applicants for the above position may submit their resume, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo not later than **May 17, 2002** to:

The Finance and Administration, Director
JT International (Philippines), Inc.
14th Flr., Units 1401/02 Galleria Corporate Center
EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City

The Women's Health & Safe Motherhood Project-Partnerships Component,
is currently in need of one highly creative and dynamic

INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION (IEC) CONSULTANT

to be assigned in Cagayan de Oro City

The person we are looking for should be able to think out of the box and come up with novel ideas and winning ways of promoting women's health and empowerment at the community level. Specifically, she/he will:

- Conduct communications resource and needs assessment in Project areas; formulate a strategic communication plan based on the overall IEC and advocacy framework of the Project; identify, pretest and promote key messages among stakeholders; develop feedback mechanisms; conceptualize and supervise the production of appropriate, relevant and cost-effective IEC materials and events; liaise with the media, academe, LGUs and NGOs; conduct trainings to help build the IEC and advocacy capabilities of community women and Project partners.

Qualifications:

- Knowledgeable in Social Marketing; extensive experience in IEC and advocacy work in the community; gender-sensitive and aware of community health/development issues; proficient in DTP; graphics design savvy; excellent writing and editing skills; fluent in Cebuano; preferably a resident of Region 10; willing to travel extensively to Project areas in Northern Mindanao; graduate of a four-year course in Communications or Social Sciences.

The work will only be from May to July 2002.

ONLY CANDIDATES WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY. WE WILL ONLY RESPOND TO SHORT-LISTED APPLICANTS.

Interested applicants should submit their letter of intent, comprehensive resumé with a recent 2x2 photo, employment and academic credentials on or before **10 May 2002** to:

**THE PERSONNEL OFFICER**

Women's Health Project - Partnerships Component
5B Osmeña Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila

Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

Pharmacist Required

Earn up to P100,000.00 a month
in salaries & benefits!

Licensed full time or part time pharmacist required with excellent sales and computer skills to manage a cosmetic and beauty products business. Must be able to set up an office space at his or her home within four hours of Metro Manila and below thirty (30) years old. Please submit your resumé with your colored ID picture to:

**Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odullo,
Calma & Carbonell Law Offices**

at 140 L. P. Leviste St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

or contact **Mr. Eric Peterson at 920-4053638** or
Atty. Carlo S. Marasigan
at **818-2321 to 25**.

AMERIKA ATBP.

And the IMMIGRANT VISA CENTER will be conducting a

FREE NURSES' U.S. IMMIGRATION SEMINAR

With Emphasis on • What to Ask Employers About the Job Offer •
How to Read Agreements Before Signing • The Immigration Process

Seminar Date: May 9 and 16, 2002, 4 to 6 PM
For Reservations Call 414-2655 • 411-0806 • (0916) 333-7074

KENDEIGH INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION



Highly Motivated Fresh Graduate and Individuals, here's your chance!

A Philippine based multinational company on its expansion program needs you as:

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

- 21 years old and above (Fresh grads or with previous work experience)
- Preferably from the Banking and Marketing Industry
- Male and Female
- Aggressive, sociable, analytical and can work under pressure
- Fluent in English (Chinese speaking a plus)
- A graduate of any reputable University
- Self-motivated, goal achiever

We provide Intensive Training:

- Basic training
- Management training

Our compensation and benefits are:

- Compensation packages commensurate to your abilities (5-6 figures)
- Incentives
- Commission in US Dollars
- Overseas holidays
- Managerial promotions

Interested applicants must bring their resumé with 2x2 ID picture and personally apply in proper corporate attire at:

The Peak Tower Building
Unit 1101-1104 107 L.P. Leviste Street
Brgy. Bel-Air, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227
(from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
from 6th to 10th day of May 2002
Kindly look for Mr. Allan Rapadas or Mr. Marty Reyes
(Please bring along this advertisement)

A fast growing brand of apparel is currently in the process of expanding its market reach through aggressive product distribution, market driven product development strategies, and innovative marketing communications strategies is currently looking for the following key people in its organization.

NATIONAL SALES MANAGER

- Not more than 45 years old Minimum of 7 years experience as sales manager
- Preferably with extensive experience in the retail, garments, or consumer goods sales
- BS Degree in Business or related field, preferably with MBA
- Proven sales track record and ability to motivate people
- Superior communication, analytical, and organizational skills

MIS MANAGER

- Not more than 35 years old
- Minimum of five years experience as MIS Manager
- Experience in manufacturing, retail, or consumer oriented companies
- BS Computer Science or Computer Engineering graduate
- Strong background in developing various computer system and programs
- With superior communication, analytical, and organizational skills

Be part of the winning team. Send your resumé, salary history, and character references to the President / CEO

Box 200
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALESMAN/SALESLADIES/ TRAINER/SUPERVISOR/ TELEMARKETING

- MALE/FEMALE AGES 18 TO 30 COLLEGE GRADUATE
- HONEST, AGGRESSIVE, HARDWORKING, TALENTED
- APPLICANTS MUST BE ELOQUENT IN SPEAKING ENGLISH
- CAN WORK UNDER PRESSURE
- PLEASING PERSONALITY
- WILLING TO WORK LONG HOURS
- MUST BE WILLING TO ASSIGN IN OTHER BRANCHES
- MUST BE WILLING TO UNDERGO TRAINING

*SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL BE OFFERED HIGHLY COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION WITH COMMISSIONS.

APPLICANTS MUST COME PERSONALLY IN PROPER ATTIRE TOGETHER WITH THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH PICTURES AT:

UNIT 3, 2ND FLOOR, LEMON SQUARE BUILDING
1199 EDSA, QUEZON CITY TEL# 371-1118

U.S. HOSPITAL needs NURSES (for Direct Hiring)

Must have:

- CGFNS
- Currently working in hospital (minimum 1 year experience)
- ✓ Absolutely no fees
- ✓ All expenses paid

APPLY IN PERSON at:

3rd Floor, Chemphil Building
851 Pasay Road, Makati City
or Call 817-5811, look for Chona
Monday to Friday: Office Hours

FOTO ALLEY INC.

Exclusive Distributor for Kodak Professional Products in the Philippines has an urgent need for:

- Accountancy Graduate
- Female with good oral and written communication skills
- 23 to 35 years old with at least 2 years work experience (preferably in general accounting)
- Computer literate (exceptional knowledge in Word and Excel Application)

Interested applicants may submit their resumé from Monday-Wednesday, May 6-8, 2002 at:

Unit D, 1538 San Gregorio Street
corner Figueroa Street, Paco, Manila (Tel. No. 564-1447)

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

MEDTECH, CHEMIST, OPTOMETRIST

- LICENSED, MALE OR FEMALE
- PLEASING PERSONALITY
- WILLING TO ACCEPT OUT OF TOWN ASSIGNMENTS

CALL: 823 08 57 / DRA. TIMTIMAN, PAT OR BETH
0917-4237515 / 821-4938 = DRA. TIMTIMAN
FOR APPOINTMENT - OFFICE HOURS

COOK - with at least 2 years experience

SECRETARY or BOOKKEEPER - Female; age 20-28 years old, with work experience

BARISTA or BARTENDER - Male or female; age 18-30 years old, with work experience; pleasing personality

RECEPTIONIST - Female; age 18-25 years old; at least 5'2" in height; with pleasing personality

Please call 743-0245 / 743-7844 for appointment to apply in person. Kindly bring your resumé, latest 2x2 picture, and NBI Clearance to #73 N. Roxas Street, corner Bonifacio Street, 5th Floor, Unit D, Quezon City.

AIR-CONDITIONING (Split-Package Units) or (Dehumidifier)

Why buy and maintain the unit!

When you can RENT and be FREE of the TROUBLE of

1. Maintenance
2. Repair (minor/major)
3. Procurement Processes
4. Verifying Diagnostics of different shops.
5. Management and Supervision of tech. personnel

For Inquiry call: DynaCool Corp.
911-7986 / 437-1274; telefax 911-1895 or
Email: dynacool@i-next.net

OSRAM Philippines Ltd. Corp.

OSRAM, a leading global manufacturer of Lamps and Electronic Control Gear, sets standards in quality innovation and efficiency for light in all areas of life.

OSRAM is one of the three leading lamp manufacturers in the world. It is very much a global player. With around 32,000 employees we serve customers in over 140 countries.

In line with our expansion plan, we would like to invite suitable candidates for the following position:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

(Cebu and Davao)

Requirements:

- Candidate must be a college graduate
- Those with Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering have a definite advantage
- Must be inclined towards a career in Sales and Marketing
- Must at least have 1 year of work experience in the electrical industry; experience in lighting would be a definite advantage
- Knowledgeable in the electrical wholesale and retail market
- Must be result-oriented, self-motivated with a high degree of flexibility and integrity
- Around 20 years old and above
- Fluent in Tagalog, Visaya and English

We offer an attractive remuneration package, benefits and a working environment with high growth potential and very good career advantages of a multinational company.

German Technology brought to Light OSRAM

Please send your application to:

OSRAM Philippines Ltd. Corp.
#724 Moriones corner Juan Luna Streets, Tondo, Manila
Tel. Nos.: (632) 243-9714-17; Fax No.: (632) 243-9719
E-mail: saleseng@osram.com.ph

SEE THE WORLD IN A NEW LIGHT



TAIYO YUDEN (PHILIPPINES), INC.

A large multinational manufacturing firm located at the Mactan Economic Zone in Cebu is in urgent need of:

3 JAPANESE INTERPRETERS

Code: JI

- A graduate of any four-year course
- Can read, write and speak Japanese language
- Must have two years experience in working with Japanese executives
- Knows MSWord, Excel and PowerPoint
- 23-35 years old - Female

Interview will be conducted on May 15 and 16, 2002 at
DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO
2nd Floor Business Meeting Room
Ayala Center, Makati

For us to arrange your schedule for interview, your application letter and resumé must be submitted not later than May 10, 2002 to:

HUMAN RESOURCES and GENERAL AFFAIRS MANAGER
Taiyo Yuden (Phils.), Inc.
Mactan Economic Zone I
Lapulapu City, Cebu
6015
or thru our e-mail address:
recruitment@pty.yuden.co.jp

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com



NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY, MANILA VEHICLE BID

The New Zealand Embassy in Manila is offering for sale by public tender:

ONE (1) MITSUBISHI SPACEWAGON MODEL 1996

Sale is on "As is where is basis"

The vehicle may be inspected by appointment. Call 891-5358.

Bid should be made in Pesos and should include the bidder's name, address and contact number. Bids must be lodged in the Tender Box at the New Zealand Embassy, 23/F BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, by 24 May 2002.

The Embassy reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Successful bidders will be contacted and required to execute a Deed of Sale and pay the amount of bid at the Embassy within seven (7) days of such notification.

Vehicle will not be released until the buyer has produced satisfactory evidence of payment of duties and taxes due in the Philippines.

A Manufacturer of packaged tissue paper products is looking for:

Sales Manager, Visayas

- Resident of Iloilo for at least five (5) years. Shall also cover Bacolod and Cebu
- Self-starter and aggressive. Able to manage a specific territory, plan and implement sales programs and motivate the team.
- With strong moral values and trustworthy.
- Minimum of one (1) year experience as Supermarket Sales Specialist or equivalent in Iloilo or Bacolod.
- Pleasing personality with good oral and written communication skills. Must be computer literate.
- Capable of conceptualizing and implementing a comprehensive Sales Plan for the area to achieve corporate Sales targets.

Sales Specialist - Supermarket

- Residents of either Iloilo, Bacolod or Cebu for at least two (2) years.
- Pleasing personality with good oral and written communication skills. Must be computer literate.
- Organized and capable of independent action.
- Trustworthy especially in the area of handling cash.
- Experience in selling to Supermarkets a plus but not essential.

Qualified applicants are advised to send their comprehensive resumé to:

Box Code Mk-83
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer - Classified Ads Division
G/F Atrium Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City

WANTED: FAMILY DRIVER

- male, 30-35 years old with professional Driver's license.
- presentable looking.
- good moral character.
- can give references.
- has driven both manual and automatic transmission vehicles.
- must have worked as Family Driver for at least 5 years.
- willing to stay-in.
- can do car maintenance and troubleshooting repairs.
- those who have worked abroad need to apply.

For the qualified applicant, we offer a salary of P10,500.00 a month with free meals.

Apply PERSONALLY with Bio-Data, photo and references to:

THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER
80-82 Rocas Avenue, Quezon City
*Previous Applicants need not apply



Republic of the Philippines SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 820-6401 • (632) 920-6445
E-mail: sss@mail@info.com.ph • Web site: http://www.sss.gov.ph

Visit the SSS website (SSS.gov.ph) for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES RICE REQUIREMENT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER OF CY2002, ONE (1) UNIT DIAGNOSTIC X-RAY MACHINE & SSS MAKATI CANTEN CONCESSIONAIRE

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting the following:

- 1) Bidders for the supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,700 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the 3rd quarter of Year 2002 with the following specifications:
 - Degree of Milling : Well Milled Rice (WMR)
 - Moisture Content : 14% (maximum)
 - Grade Specifications : Headrice - 90% to 95% (minimum)
Broken - 10% to 5% (maximum)
 - Packaging : 50 kilos in light yellow woven polypropylene
 - Labeling : With front & back markings
 - Delivery Terms : Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)
- 2) Bidders for one (1) unit Diagnostic X-ray Machine complete with accessories
- 3) Experienced canteen concessionaires to participate in the pre-qualification and bidding to operate the SSS Makati Canteen located at the 13th Floor, SSS Makati Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

List of pre-qualification requirements must be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 5490/5491. Below are the deadlines for the submission of pre-qualification documents, at the same address:

Item No.	Deadline
Item 1	May 27, 2002
Item 2	May 28, 2002
Item 3	May 29, 2002

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the System. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the System guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.
Senior Vice President
and Chairman,
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - May 5, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following employees of SOLUTIONS CONSULTING GROUP, INC. ("Company"), have been TERMINATED from employment effective on the following dates:



MA. THERESA A. YAUDER
March 12, 2002



PAULINA M. RILLO
March 13, 2002



NOEL P. GONZALES
March 14, 2002



FLORDELIZA P. QUIAMBAO
March 20, 2002

Further, please be notified that MR. RENE D. SANTOS, former President of the Company, and MS. SANDRA ONG, consultant, have resigned effective 01 March 2002.

As such, these people are not authorized to represent SOLUTIONS CONSULTING GROUP, INC., GLOBAL SYSTEMS INTERNATIONAL, INC. and SYSTEMS UNION and have therefore no authorization to sell, install or implement SUNSYSTEMS and associated products. Thus, transactions on behalf of the Company entered into by Ma. Theresa A. Yauder, Paulina M. Rillo, Noel P. Gonzales and Flordeliza P. Quiambao after the above-mentioned dates, and by Rene D. Santos & Sandra Ong after 01 March 2002 shall not be honored by the Company.

For our mutual benefit and security, please transact business only with the Managing Director, MR. RICHARD G. MARQUEZ or with our authorized representatives. Kindly contact us at telephone numbers: 843-4140, 843-4181 & 844-5309.

(PDI - May 6, 2002)

BAUANG PRIVATE POWER CORPORATION
KM 255 Payocpoc Sur, Bauang, La Union

INVITATION TO BID
FOR THE SALE OF EXCESS CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
"as is, where is"
Date of Bidding: 31 May 2002

Item	Quantity	Unit	Base Price
Mechanical Spare Parts			
1. Housing for Valve Drive (Spare for Sulzer Engine, 162AV 40S, Part No. KS44101)	193	pc	P 30,450.43/pc
2. Gasket for Lubo Oil Heat Exchanger (Code No. 1735 1001, Brand-APV Baker, Type-H17 MGS 16/2) * 1 set has 130 pcs. gasket	6+	set	P 147,150.61/set
3. Bolt w/ nuts (20mm. dia. X 200mm long)	5,335	pc	P 73/pc
4. Motor for 21P124NI, Usable	20	unit	P 7,000/unit
5. Motor for 21P124NI, Defective	17	unit	P 2,000/unit

Specifications of the 21P1 Motor

Trademark	: LS Leroy Somer	Trademark	: LS Leroy Somer
Code	: LS 200 LT	Code	: F 132MM
Type	: Foot Mounted	Phase	: 3-Phase
Phase	: 3-Phase	Volts	: 230 Delta/460 Wye
Volts	: 440 Delta at 60 Hz, .87 PF, 56.7 Amperes	Amperes	: 32.4 Amps
	460 Volts at 60 Hz, .85 PF, 55.4 Amperes	Frequency	: 60 Hz
	460 Volts at 50 Hz, .82 PF, 55.0 Amperes	Protection Class	: IP 55
Protection Class	: IP 55	Insulation Class	: F
Insulation Class	: F	Kilowatt	: 11
Kilowatt	: 34	RPM	: 1750
RPM	: 1755	Temp	: 40C
		Service Factor	: S1
		Bearings	: NDE 6208 22C3 DE 6308 22C3

6. Elbow B.I., 90 deg. X DN 100-500, Sched. 30 & 40 791
7. Flange, Slip-On, DN 65 X 76, 1

8. Flange, Butt-End, DN 25
9. Flange, Flat, DN 40-220, 4-S Holes
10. Reducers, Concentric, DN 250 x 200/250 x 150/
11. Caps, B.I. DN 250
12. Carboys, Black, empty 20 kg.

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 31 May 2002, 4PM at the BPPC Head Office with address at the 2nd Floor, Berpres Building, Exchange Road and Meralco Avenue, Pasig, MM c/o Mr. Dean B. Rivera (Tel. No. 449-64-09) or at the BPPC Plant Site (address above) c/o Mr. Joseph B. Soriano (Tel. No. 631-80-24 local BPPC Site or at (072) 705-20-77 to 81).

* Bid forms, additional information and requests for inspection may be secured from the abovesmentioned personnel at the addresses and telephone numbers provided.

BPPC reserves the right to reject any or all of the offers, to waive any formality found therein and to accept/reject such offers as may be considered most advantageous to its interest. BPPC further assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders of any expense that they may have incurred in joining this nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. The decision of BPPC shall be final and binding.

FOR THE BPPC DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
(Sgd.) R. R. DIFUNTORUM
Chairman

(PDI - April 26 & May 5, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Bldg. #1, SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (632) 743-8301

25 April 2002

CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB NO. 2002-5-28 (01)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals for the use of the DOH Retained Hospitals, with an approved budget of Eighty-two Million Philippine Pesos only (P82,000,000.00), chargeable against the National Center for Health Facility Development funds.

Only duly accredited DOH suppliers/manufacturers and exclusive distributors of drugs as certified by the DOH Accreditation of Supplier's Committee, with valid Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) for items to be bid from Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), and with no pending violations of the said product to be bid from BFAD are qualified to participate for the Procurement of Various Pharmaceuticals. Copy of the list of various pharmaceuticals, with specifications and quantities are available at the Procurement and Logistics Service, Bldg. 26, Department of Health, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents and obtain further information from the Procurement and Logistics Service from May 6 to 24, 2002, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders upon presentation of authenticated DOH Supplier's Accreditation Certificate for Drugs and Medicines and its accredited products, valid CPR of specific accredited drugs to be bid. Certification of No Pending Violation of the drugs to be bid and upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos only (P2,000.00).

A pre-bidding conference will be held on May 14, 2002 at 2:00 p.m., National Epidemiology Center Conference Room, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Bids must be submitted to the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) at the National Epidemiology Center Conference Room not later than 1:00 p.m. on May 28, 2002. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in an amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid, in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft/guarantee confirmed by a reputable local bank, irrevocable letter of credit issued by a reputable commercial bank, or any combination thereof, as may be required by the head of the agency concerned, in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1-1/2%)

The Department of Health reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds to the Department of Health.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, M.D., MPH, CESO II
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - April 28 & May 5, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
SAN LAZARO COMPOUND
RIZAL AVENUE, STA. CRUZ
MANILA, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. 743-8301

May 2, 2002

INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB Nos. 2002-5-30-2 (a), 2002-6-19-2(b) & (c)

The Department of Health hereby invites sealed written bids for the provision of required services for Fiscal year 2002-2003.

Only responsible and duly licensed/accredited contracting service agencies are qualified to participate.

Bidding documents can be secured at the Procurement and Logistics Service, Department of Health, Building 26, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila from May 13 to June 11, 2002 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. upon submission of Letter of Intent, presentation of current business permit and payment of a non-refundable fee of Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00) for each bid document.

Particulars	Pre-bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
1. Hauling Services	May 16, 2002 2:00 p.m.	May 30, 2002 3:00 p.m.	May 30, 2002 3:01 a.m.
2. Janitorial Services	May 29, 2002 9:00 p.m.	June 19, 2002 9:00 a.m.	June 19, 2002 9:01 a.m.
3. Security Services	May 29, 2002 1:00 p.m.	June 19, 2002 2:00 p.m.	June 19, 2002 2:01 p.m.

All activities shall be held at the Multi Media Center of Excellence, Department of Health, Building No. 18, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, unless announced otherwise.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the amount of P400,000.00, for Janitorial and Security Services and P500,000.00, for Hauling Services in the prescribed form stated under ITB Nos. 2002-5-30-2(a), 2002-6-19-2(b) and 2002-6-19-2(c) of the Bid Documents and must be valid for thirty (30) days after the expiration of bid validity as indicated.

For further details, please contact the Secretariat, COBAC, Department of Health at telephone numbers 743-8301 local 1338.

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, REJECTS ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER OR BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

By authority of the Secretary of Health:
(Sgd.) ZENAIDA O. LUDOVICE, MD, MPH
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 5 & 12, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket ONLINE
VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

**NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF
WORLD MARKETING ALLIANCE PHILIPPINES, INC.
and WORLD MARKETING ALLIANCE PHILIPPINES
INSURANCE BROKERAGE CO. LTD.**

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of WORLD MARKETING ALLIANCE PHILIPPINES, INC. (the "Corporation") and the Amended Articles of Partnership of WORLD MARKETING ALLIANCE PHILIPPINES INSURANCE BROKERAGE CO. LTD., formerly World Marketing Alliance Philippines Insurance Agency Co. Ltd., (the "Partnership"), shortening the term of their existence and thereby dissolving said Corporation and Partnership as of June 15, 2002 was approved by the Board of Directors and stockholders of the Corporation and the partners of the Partnership on March 1, 2002. All parties having claims against the Corporation and the Partnership are requested to present the same at their office at the 2nd Floor, King's Court I Building, 2129 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.

This announcement serves as a notice to all parties concerned about the legal dissolution of the Corporation and the Partnership.

Makati City, April 23, 2002.

(Sgd.) MA. ROSARIO D. ALBARICO
Vice President

(PDI - May 5, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



LYNETTE ANN OPERAÑA LOZADA

THE PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT **LYNETTE ANN OPERAÑA LOZADA**, WHOSE PICTURE APPEARS ABOVE, IS A SUBJECT OF A WARRANT OF ARREST IN CRIMINAL CASE NO. U-11823 PENDING BEFORE THE RTC, BRANCH 45, URDANETA CITY.

We would appreciate receiving any information regarding her whereabouts. Kindly contact Mr. Ferdie Chua at (0918) 9499107 or Ms. Abbie Angeles at 8110211 loc. 2228 / 5112228.

(PDI - May 5, 2002)

We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding

in Luzon

Bakit lalong ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na tulit pa!

Manila
Babushin ATBP, Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
Gansil, San Jose
Mr. Ramon Almalanta
GSC Newcenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (093) 301-8731/301-6244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos. (092) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell. No. (0918) 660-0001
Zamboanga
Mr. James Hapo
Marian's Variety Store
66-68 Sevilla Street, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (052) 991-429/991-0973
Mr. Ruben Bautista
c/o Norie Bautista
Christian Vincent Newstand
P. Bantares Street corner Campaner Street
Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (052) 991-2055/990-4016

Other Cities
Babushin ATBP, Lower Level, Gaisano Mall
Bajada, Davao City
Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
Bajada, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 221-3927/227-4410/300-2920
Gansil, San Jose
Mr. Ramon Almalanta
GSC Newcenter, Dimalanta Building
35 Pioneer Avenue, General Santos City
Tel. Nos. (093) 301-8731/301-6244
Pagadian City
Mr. Eduardo Villar Clavero
Edmar News - Advertising Agency
Bonifacio Street, Pagadian City
Tel. Nos. (092) 215-1448/214-2641
Cell. No. (0918) 660-0001
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Our Dearest Tatay
ROMEO OÑATE VILLARTA

Professor, U.P. College of Fisheries, 1957-1976

passed away on April 26, 2002 and he now lives his life with the Lord.

He is survived by his wife **Filomena**; brother **Venancio**; children **Julie** and **Felix dela Cruz**, **Elizabeth** and **Eduardo Palabrica**, **Romeo Jr.** and **Bethel Paraso-Villarta**, **Romulo** and **Marivic Mari-Villarta**, **Ronnie** and **Maritess Manuel-Villarta**, **Roy** and **Susan Ramos-Villarta**, **Rhodora** and **Jeff Snow-Villarta**; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

His remains will be flown from Vancouver, BC, Canada to Chapel 3 of Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City on the evening of Sunday, May 5, 2002.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 3:00 PM.

Please join us in celebrating Tatay's life.

*On the Thirty-First
 Death Anniversary of*

DR. BIENVENIDO B. ERAÑA

*we lovingly remember and once more offer HOLY MASSES tomorrow,
 Monday, May 6, 2002 at the following churches:*

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Lantana St., Cubao, QC .. 6:00 A.M.
 SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, Forbes Park, Makati 6:15 A.M.
 SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE, Greenhills, Mandaluyong 6:15 A.M.
 CHRIST THE KING, E. Rodriguez, Sr. Blvd., QC 6:30 A.M.
 ST. JOHN BOSCO, Armaiz St., Makati 6:30 A.M.
 ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Pinaglabanan, San Juan, MM 6:30 A.M.
 SHRINE OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY, ... 6:30 A.M.
 Sto. Domingo Church, QC
 OUR LADY OF EDSA, EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., QC 6:30 A.M.
 MARY THE QUEEN, Madison St., Greenhills, San Juan 7:00 A.M.
 OUR LADY OF LOURDES, Retiro cor. Kanlaon, QC 7:30 A.M.
 MT. CARMEL, Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, QC 6:00 P.M.

We, his family, request relatives, friends and the pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

**WE LOVINGLY REMEMBER
 Our Beloved Mother**

PRISCILA LEDDA COPUYOC

July 19, 1922 – May 7, 2001

who joyfully joined her Creator on May 7, 2001.

Holy Masses for her soul will be offered at the following chapels, churches on May 7, 2002.

- St. Joseph's Shrine, Aurora Blvd., Proj. 2, QC 7:45 am
- Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, 6:30 am
- Regidor St. Loyola Heights, QC 6:30 pm
- ACI Chapel (Handmaids of Sacred Heart) 6:00 am
- C. Salvador St., Loyola Hts, QC
- Cenacle Chapel, N. Reyes St., Loyola Hts, QC 6:30 am
- Dela Estrada Parish, 6:30 pm
- Katipunan Rd, Loyola Heights, QC

The family requests relatives, friends & pious readers to join them in praying for her soul.

Ma. Asuncion "Sony" J. Chin

February 28, 1951 - May 3, 2002

- ♥ a loving and generous wife, mother, daughter, sister, sister-in-law, tita ♥
- ♥ a loyal, infectious and cheerful friend ♥ a believer and strong supporter of the youth ♥
- ♥ a compassionate development worker ♥ an advocate of peace for Mindanao ♥
- ♥ a true Mindanaon ♥

peacefully joined our Creator on May 3, 2002 after having lived 51 years, working to improve the quality of lives of those whom she had touched, especially the people of Mindanao.

Please pray with us for the eternal repose of her soul.

Sony lies in state at her home at Corner Agno-Pansipit Sts., Rivera Village, Hajada, Davao City. She will be laid in her final resting place on Thursday, May 9, 2002.

The Holy Mass will be celebrated at Ateneo Jacinto Chapel, Davao City at 2:00 p.m. Interment will be right after the Mass at the Davao Memorial Park, Matina, Davao City.

In loving memory from,

♦ Husband Vic & only daughter Ray-ray ♦

♦ brothers, sisters, in-laws George (†), Jinky, Evelyn, Rose & Andy, Nena & Oscar (†), Cecile & Cesar, Linda & Rudy, Jun & Gladys, mother-in-law Carmen, in-laws Lerry & Hector, Rods (†) & Yolly, Ramon & Jackie, Sarah & Joe, Sandra & Jess, Alex & Mila ♦
 ♦ Nephews and Nieces ♦ Grandnephews & Grandnieces ♦
 ♦ relatives & and other loved ones ♦

In lieu of flowers, donations for the indigent children of Buluan, Maguindanao would be much appreciated.

The family of the late

ENGR. ELOY D. SADSAD

who passed away on May 2, 2002 at the age of 65.

Wishes to inform relatives and friends that his body lies in state at Chapel 8, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 3:00 PM at Himayang Pilipino, Quezon City.

ANTONIO E. GALINEA SR.

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 19, 2002 at the age of 57.

His loving wife SALLY; children JUN & ERNA; WARREN and BENG; SUZETTE & HALJIME; LUCKY; grandchildren, relatives & friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at SAMPAGUITA CHAPEL of the FUNERARIA FILIPINAS, LAS PIÑAS, M.M.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at the Everest Hills, Susana Heights Muntinlupa at 2:00 p.m.

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REV. FR. CONSTANCE C. DURLAO

January 28, 1924 - May 4, 2002

(Parish Priest of the Philippine Independent Church of Solsona, Ilocos Norte for 54 years)

His bereaved wife **VENANCIA**; children **Clarence** and **Leonor**, **Clifford** and **Juliet**, and **Avensus**; grandchildren **Camille**, **Isabelle**, **Jezryll**, and **Ruth**; brother **Hermenegildo**; and sister-in-law **May**; aunts and uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

He lies in state at the St. Peter Memorial Chapels until Wednesday, May 8, 2002 after which he will be brought to Solsona, Ilocos Norte where he will be interred on a date to be announced later.

"Even this shall pass away..."

BARBARA V. MEDINA

Peacefully joined her Creator and our beloved Daddy, Dr. Buenaventura C. Medina on May 3, 2002 at the age of 66.

Her children **Dr. Jun** and **Angel**, **Dr. Bimbo** and **Mabel**, **Benjie** and **Ivee**, **Bernard** and **Lalie**; grandchildren **Benito**, **Avery**, **Marga**, and **Arielle**; her brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 7, 2002 at The Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 9:00 AM Mass.

"... a dearly-beloved one has gone beyond our call..."

RODOLFO JAVIER CABRERA, M.D.

of Pagsanjan, Laguna
 and Bagontapay, M'lang, North Cotabato

*passed away in the Grace of our Lord on April 30, 2002
 at the age of 60.*

His bereaved wife **ROSLYN KIMHOKO CABRERA**, children **Michelle** and **Jeffrey Lim**, **Carlo** and **Donna**, and **Allan Jon**; grandchildren **Ysabel** and **Paolo**, **Karina** and **Rodrigo**; brothers, sisters, cousins and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 220 V. Mapa St., Davao City. Interment will be on May 7, 2002 at Davao Memorial Park, after the 6:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Parish, Bagontapay Mlang North Cotabato.

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang

Teresita Zaida F. Malacaman

Has peacefully joined our Creator on May 4, 2002 at the age of 63.

Her bereaved children: **Ranny** & **Irene**, **Mac** & **Rica** & **Martin**; grandchildren **RJ**, **Almee**, **Andre**, **Benjie**, **Cathleen**, **Bea**, **Miko**, **Krisel**, **Kint** & **KM**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to join us in praying for her journey to eternal life.

Her remains lie in state at St. John Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Suert Road, Parañaque City. Interment will be on Wednesday, May 8, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Message of Thanks

*For visiting us and being with us in our time of sorrow
 For praying with us and for us
 For the messages of sympathy and condolence
 For the beautiful flowers and gifts to express compassion
 For attending the services and the funeral rites
 For all that you have done to console our hearts*

*Our sincerest gratitude
 for the family of the late*

GO WUN CHING y ONG

who joined our Lord and her husband, the late
 ONG BI CHEONG on April 20, 2002.

**I am
 the way,
 the truth
 and
 the life.
 No one
 comes
 to the
 Father
 except
 through
 Me.**

John 14:6

**Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever
 loses his life for my sake will find it.**

Matthew 10:39

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SundayBIZ

Armani and Martha Stewart want this lady's goods

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHAT do Italian designer Giorgio Armani and American lifestyle icon Martha Stewart have in common?

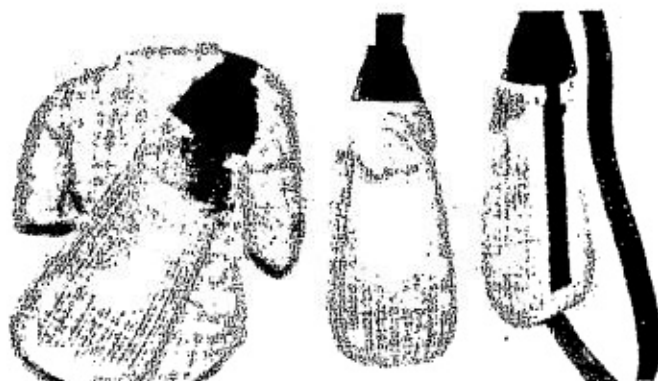
They both want the handbags and household accessories produced by S.C. Vizcarra Inc., a 75-year-old Filipino firm that has become synonymous with world-class Filipino craftsmanship since it opened its doors in 1925.

S.C. Vizcarra's tradition of producing quality products was started by Segundina C. Vizcarra, who did not learn how to read or write but was blessed with hands that could create beautiful embroidery.

Through the help of Doña Angela Tuason, one of the rich matrons in Manila then, and an admirer of her needlework, she was able to put up her own embroidery shop in Ermita in 1925. She became the rage among the rich families that lived in the district and she was frequently called upon to embroider traje de bodas.

Her reputation spread and by 1928, she was asked to put up her own shop in the Clark Air Base, making her the first trade concessionaire of a US military base worldwide. By 1950, she was present in 27 installations of the US military including those in other countries.

"She founded the company on her values which are to provide high-quality products at reasonable prices. What she made were works



S.C. Vizcarra's Tekawitha bag made of wicker that became an instant hit in Europe.

of art," says Vizcarra's daughter Vicky Amalingan, who now runs the company.

Legacy

Among the elder Vizcarra's legacies were the embroidery on the last US flag that was lowered on July 4, 1946 when the Philippines declared independence and the 12-piece piña tablecloth set presented by the government as a wedding gift to Queen Elizabeth II when she married Prince Philip.

The handicrafts business continued to boom through the '60s and the '70s, but by the 1980s, business declined because of the political uncertainty and the drop in tourism. Suddenly, there were no more big buyers of Filipino handicrafts.

It came to a point when in 1991, Amalingan had to close down all the stores, including those in the military bases and the Ermita building.

What she kept was the export side of the business that managed to find buyers for its baskets and household materials.

Amalingan, however, says that she could not totally turn her back on the workers, many of whom were children and grandchildren of those who were with her mother when the company was formed. They were no longer just workers, but members of her family.

"When orders started to come in, we slowly got most of them back. They are important to me because I grew up with them. Being an only child, they were my playmates. My mother always believed in housing them to keep their families nearby. I continued the tradition," Amalingan says.

From a company more known for its embroidery, S.C. Vizcarra transformed itself in the 1990s into a basket-manufacturing firm for ex-

ports. It hit the low-to-middle price range for its baskets and hit it big in 1993 when it came up with the watermelon baskets.

"We were exporting 20 to 30 containers a month of the watermelon baskets. But just when we were really starting to get back into the game, China came in and business went down again. It was then that we realized that we cannot continue just selling low- to mid-priced items if we are to compete. We should go high end," Amalingan says.

Going high end

The strategy was based on their experience that China, with its huge labor force, can have a virtual monopoly of the low- to mid-range market. Fortunately for the Philippines, China cannot compete as well in terms of design and workmanship.

"I believe in the wealth of talent of our people. I always tell them now to always be different. The others may copy but then we are already on to the next project, so we are always ahead," Amalingan says.

S.C. Vizcarra, thus, made the move to the high-end side of the business, producing items such as footstools and chests, food covers, pillows made of wicker and picnic baskets.

But it was not until S.C. Vizcarra went into the manufacture of handbags two years ago that the company firmly entrenched itself in the high-end export market.

"The Asean Center in Japan came to the Philippines at that time and looked for five factories that made



MARTHA Stewart loves these wicker pillows.

products that they thought would make it in Japan. We were one of those chosen and happily, we had the most buyers," Amalingan says.

The pillows and the picnic baskets made of wicker were such big hits and orders poured in. S.C. Vizcarra followed it shortly by its handbags that first hit the market during a fashion product exhibition in Japan.

"We just came with 40 samples and we were so surprised because we had orders worth \$380,000 which was really big. We did it even if we did not know everything about making handbags yet at that time," she says.

The handbags caught the eye of the buyers because of the artistic combination of local and synthetic materials as well as the unusual shapes and sizes that make the products stand out from the rest.

As was the tradition, S.C. Vizcarra exerted all efforts to meet the order and the company did, due mainly to the collective effort of the workers and the designers.

Values

She says it was heartwarming to

know that the workers were willing to sacrifice long hours with no overtime pay just to meet the order, and she credits this to the values that the company has inculcated in their minds and in their hearts.

The 100 or so workers, for instance, including Amalingan, set aside 15 minutes of their time every day to pray the rosary and then an hour every Saturday for mass.

Amalingan says the company's attention to the spiritual health of the workers combined with relatively high salaries paid dividends in the form of quality workmanship.

"They were willing to work with me because I always tell them that what they are doing is not just for themselves, but for the Philippines. We have to show the world that Philippine products and designs are world class," she says.

Orders have continued to pile up and S.C. Vizcarra's handbags and pillows are now available in the high-end stores of Japan, the United States and soon in more major stores in Europe. Even fashion house Yves Saint Laurent has asked for samples.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor

Louie C. Camino

'SPIDER-MAN' Weaving a web of magic

By Paul Daza

"SPIDER-MAN," the lavish new superhero flick starring Tobey Maguire, is an affecting, sensational adventure which resonates on a number of emotional levels. It's perhaps the best movie to be made from a comic book series since "Superman The Movie," released in 1978.

Directed with creative reverence by Sam Raimi from a rich screenplay by David Koepp, "Spider-Man" is the nearly flawless filmic adaptation of the popular comic book character who turns 40 years old this year.

REVIEW

The movie's story is 90 percent faithful to the first 10 years of the Spider-Man comic books. Peter Parker is a nerdy high-schooler in New York who's bitten by a genetically-altered spider during a class field trip. Waking up the next day, the once gawky teen discovers that he now possesses an enviable physique, not to mention the ability to scale walls, leap great distances, and shoot webs from his wrists.

Parker uses his extraordinary powers to earn extra money at first, but a family tragedy makes him realize that with great power comes great responsibility. He designs a costume and adopts the moniker "Spider-Man," and is soon helping people in need.

Around the same time the webbed wonder makes his debut, New York City is threatened by a maniacal psycho named the Green Goblin. The Goblin terrorizes the city by launching missiles and throwing destructive bombs from a flying glider that he rides like a surfboard. Among those Spider-Man has to protect from the Goblin is his childhood crush, Mary Jane Watson. An aspiring actress, Mary Jane ("MJ") is currently dating Peter's wealthy best friend, Harry Osborn. Peter doesn't know that Harry's father Norman is actually the Green Goblin, and he's about to figure out that Peter and Spider-Man share a secret.

Engaging

This tangled web of relationships is developed with such exquisite grace and sensitivity that even scenes without Spider-Man or any special effects are absorbing and emotionally engaging. Spider-Man is a favorite of millions of comic book readers for one reason: He is the one guy in the superhero universe whom ordinary Joes could relate to.

Unlike Superman who is an alien, and Batman who is a billionaire, Peter Parker is a bespectacled teenager who's picked on by bullies. He admires pretty classmates like MJ from afar, and lives with an aunt and an uncle who are far from wealthy.

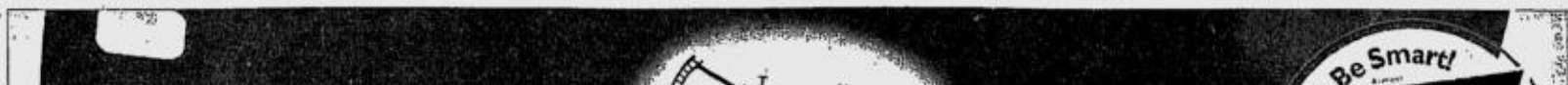
So faithfully does director Sam Raimi capture the nuances of Peter Parker's personal circumstances that the opening scenes of the movie brought me close to tears several times. Parker's status as a school outcast and his unrequited love for MJ reminded me of my own turbulent high school days, when acceptance by the "in crowd" was the most important thing in the world. My tear ducts finally gave in during the scene when a death in Peter's family unleashes a torrent of rage that cements his decision to use his superpowers for good.

Perfect cast

What makes "Spider-Man" such an emotionally rich viewing experience is the perfect cast. Tobey Maguire looks and sounds exactly like the Peter Parker who came to life in my head whenever I read the comic books. Kirsten Dunst gives Mary Jane Watson a wounded grace that perfectly complements her cheerleader demeanor.

As the schizophrenic Norman Osborn, Willem Dafoe is both likeable and loathsome.

WEAVING/CS



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino







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To play, key in **PLAY SPIDERTRIVIA** and send to 239. To answer the questions, key in the number <1, 2, 3, or 4> corresponding to your choice and send to 239.

Note: If you're playing a SMART Cinema Club game, quit first before you start a new game. To quit a game, key in QUIT and send to 239.

Sample trivia question:

Where was Peter Parker when he was bitten by a mutant spider?

1. At the zoo
2. Cleaning the attic
3. On a fieldtrip
4. At the science laboratory

Note: All SMART Cinema Club Spider-Man services are available until October 15, 2002 only.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Conan the funny man



CONAN O'BRIEN

"Late Night with Conan O'Brien"
CNBC (Saturdays and Sundays,
11 p.m. and 2 a.m.)
ZOE (Sundays and Mondays, 2 a.m.)

By Oliver Pulumbarit,
Contributor

ADMIT it. Every time you watch Jay Leno, it feels like time grinds to a halt.

That's how I feel when he conducts his monologues, regardless of how his band leader, Kevin Eubanks, laughs hard at his, well, jokes. Leno often falls flat whenever he milks a joke for all its worth. His show is mainly driven by the celebrity guests who plug their latest flicks, or by the musical guests who perform singles from their latest albums.

If real wit is what you're looking for, watch the show after Leno's, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." Now that guy's a natural.

Before the dissolution of NBC Asia channel on cable a few years ago, "Conan" and "Leno" were seen daily, with reruns the next day. Even then, it was noticeable that O'Brien has really funny material, has a captivating pres-

ence, and spares no expense in making elaborate comedy sketches. His funny "every-geek" style is very visual and clever, attracting a younger audience (college kids and the young at heart) than most talk shows.

Regrettably, NBC Asia abruptly vanished, but both shows transferred to CNBC Asia where "Conan" airs only twice a week, with reruns.

Talk about taking things for granted. I should have watched it daily before, but twice a week is better than nothing. CNBC can only afford to air it that way.

Beloved

O'Brien was a writer for "The Simpsons" and "Saturday Night Live" before he became host of his own program following the late-night imbroglio with Leno and David Letterman in 1993. This Harvard-educated wordsmith was much beloved even before he got the hosting gig.

In a sense, he represented the nerd who transcended obscurity. He and his sidekick of almost seven years, Andy Richter, worked with a likeable chemistry that's rare in a talk show format (Richter left the show to pursue an acting career).

But even without a sidekick, O'Brien effortlessly carries his own show. Drummer Max Weinberg (former Bruce Springsteen bandmate and pinch-hitter for 10,000 Maniacs' Jerome

Augustyniak) and his band, the Max Weinberg Seven, have provided the show's music and have

contributed to the mirth since the beginning.

O'Brien's brand of self-deprecation has garnered laughs throughout the years. When a joke bombs, he admits it: "Sorry, I've been drinking..." or "Thank you for the pity applause, it makes me strong."

That ability to laugh at himself makes him stand out. It also doubles as a diversionary tactic from the insults he heaps on other celebrities.

Sketches and characters

Whenever a guest is boring and answers in monosyllables, O'Brien resorts to physical comedy and starts, in his own words, "dancing around like a monkey" to save an otherwise dull conversation. But a throng of lively guests (especially stand-up comics) has contributed to the

snappy banter with the host. He offers poignant insights with his questions, and often segues seamlessly to other topics.

Some of the occasional sketches on "Late Night" include "If They Mated" (Photoshopped caricatures of the possible offspring of celeb couples), "Kids' Drawings" (bogus illustrations of things "kids" saw during their visit to the show), and "Actual Items" (newspaper ads with inserted punchlines).

The characters that have appeared include "Preparation H Raymond" (a guy who gives away rectal ointment to the audience), the hilariously sacrilegious "If Life Gives You Lemons Make Lemonade Jesus," and perhaps the most popular among them, the brilliant Robert Smigel's "Triumph the Insult Comic Dog" (a puppet who mocks celebrities, no holds barred!).

"Late Night with Conan O'Brien" is a splendid mesh of highbrow, lowbrow and everything in between. O'Brien's enthusiasm hasn't waned through these years, nor has the loyal viewers'.

The show is in a league all its own, and once you've gotten a taste of it, you'll never go back to anything less.

REVIEW

Tired of spending for her man,
Marissa finds a new love

AFTER a failed marriage, singer-comedienne **Marissa Sanchez** is not ready to get hitched again, even if she has been vocal about her romance with **Ian Nava**, who is not from show biz.

Marissa met Ian in Sweden, where he produced her concert last year. It was love at first sight for Ian, who admits he had a crush on Marissa even before they met.

SHOWBIZ
TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Marissa, who is a few years older than he, did not immediately feel the same. Ian persisted until Marissa relented and said yes.

"I was too harsh on him when he was still courting me," Marissa shares. "I was asking him point-blank why he liked me. I wanted to make sure he would not take advantage of me. I'm so tired of spending for a guy."

"But Ian was so persistent and sincere. He flattered me. He was also sweet and he knew how to make a girl feel special. It wasn't really hard to like him."

Marissa and Ian now live together. Her first marriage was voided after she proved that her first husband had been previously married to another woman.

Ian so inspires Marissa that he is often around when she is performing.

Expect Ian to be there when Marissa performs in a homecoming concert, "Songs in the Key of C-omedy," May 6 and 13 at the Calesa Bar of Hyatt Regency Manila.

The heavyweight singer has a soft spot for Calesa Bar, where she started as a performer. The first time she auditioned at the bar, Marissa was not lucky enough to earn the approval of musical director **Rudy Francisco**.

"They needed somebody sultry even if she sang off-key," Marissa relates. "But I was relentless. I didn't give up."

The next time she auditioned, she impressed Francisco when she sang "Evergreen" a la **Barbra Streisand**.

Marissa struggled through her first year at the Calesa Bar in 1995, when people came in trickles. Francisco conceptualized theme nights of Broadway, jazz and comedy on Wednesdays, with Marissa as the featured performer.

The late singer-comedian **Robert Em** convinced Marissa to do comedy onstage and make fun of her size, which the heavy Robert also used to do.

"Nilalangaw," was how Marissa described her Wednesday stint, which was later moved to Fridays.

"I looked like a fool trying to make people laugh," she recalls. "I was initially hesitant to do comedy onstage, but I discovered I could do it after all."

One night, **Julie Yap-Daza** came to watch and was impressed with Marissa's performance. An article which Julie wrote about Marissa helped bring in the crowd. Word of mouth about her performance kept the audience growing, until Friday nights became standing-room nights at the Calesa Bar.

"So they moved me to Mondays because that was a lean day," Marissa says.

In 1999, however, Marissa left Calesa to do solo shows, TV and movies. She even entertained Filipinos in Guam, Japan, Los Angeles, Dubai, Norway, Sweden, Saipan and Bali.

"But I will always look back to where I started," says Marissa. "The Calesa Bar brought me so many wonderful things. I will not think twice about performing there again any time."

The Calesa Bar show, supported by the Rotary Club of Makati-Buendia, is a prelude to a fund-raising major concert with



SANCHEZ. Returns to Hyatt's Calesa Bar for a two-night concert.



POPS goes to bonding with Martin and their sons.

the Side A Band on June 14 at Le Pavillon, the newest events venue in the Manila Bay Area. It is for the benefit of the Rotary Club's adopted community, Sitio Sto. Niño in Cupang, Muntinlupa.

Martin proud of Pops

CONGRATULATIONS to **Pops Fernandez** and **Robin Padilla** for the certified success of their first team-up, "Videoke King."

My friends and I watched the movie on its first day at the Alabang Town Center (ATC) last Wednesday.

It was not showing at Glorietta 4 or Rockwell. An earlier Star Cinema release, "Got To Believe," was shown in both cinemas. I wonder why Rockwell, a Lopez-owned company, did not screen "Videoke King?" Star Cinema is the film production arm of ABS-CBN.

The day we watched "Videoke King," every screening at ATC was sold-out. It had a perfect playdate since May 1 was a holiday. The following day, my cousin **Edith**, an avowed Pops loyalist, watched the movie at SM Megamall and she sent me a text message saying she had to endure the long queue at the box-office just to get a ticket.

My friends and I had a bonus treat when we caught the 8:25 p.m. showing at ATC Wednesday. Pops came in accompanied by **Martin Nievera** and their sons **Robin** and **Ram**.

After the screening, I asked Martin through text how he felt when he saw Pops being kissed by Robin several times on the screen. He answered in five installments through his Nokia 9210.

"I was shocked," Martin said. "Don't know too many exes who have to see such things, with my kids pa. For a comedy, I felt it could have been treated differently. But that's me."

"Pops never saw me kiss anyone on and off camera. I felt weird when I saw her and Robin kissing, but I guess there will be more movies and more kissing scenes. My vote doesn't count anymore, remember? I am here for support only."

"Oh well, I guess I asked for it. But don't get me wrong. We're all proud of Pops and the success of her movie with Robin."

Even if they are now estranged, Martin and Pops make it a point to still bond for the sake of their kids. During Holy Week, Martin drove from Las Vegas to Los Angeles to be with Pops and their sons, and they spent a day shopping in the malls.

Martin admits his foremost concern now is to see Pops happy. Pops had just ended her brief romance with businessman **Jacques du Pasquier**.

"All I want is a nice guy for her," Martin said. "I want to know who my ex-wife and my kids will hang around with. If Pops gets married, then maybe that's the only time I'll do it, too."

Acoustic Sundays
DISH offers a different sound on Sundays, when guitarist **Noel Cabangon** takes center stage, alternating with **Passage Band**.

While pop bands dominate the stage from Mondays to Saturdays, the acoustic sound of Cabangon fills up Dish, which goes mellow and laid-back on Sunday nights.

Dish owner **Philip Cui** insists that we also visit the place even on Sundays, when entertainment starts as early as 8:30 p.m.

South Border performs at Dish on all Wednesdays of May. A new reggae/rock group, **Indio**, performs on Thursdays.

Dish is on the 3rd level of Rockwell's Power Plant mall.

Regine sings
on the stairs

By Ricardo O. Ortega
Contributor



REGINE did not disappoint her audience.

"ONE NIGHT with Regine Velasquez," for the benefit of the ABS-CBN Bantay Bata Foundation, took place at the National Museum, with Maestro Ryan Cayabyab as musical director and with the support of the 85-member San Miguel Chorale and Philharmonic Orchestra.

I learned that the Songbird picked the venue herself over other choices such as the Philippine Plaza, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Meralco Theater. The pillars of the National Museum and the building itself, which speak of national heritage and grand architecture by themselves, convinced her that they would make a very scenic backdrop since the show was initially designed to be a television special.

She had the entire front of the building for her stage. The first letter of her name solely provided the accent. The right extremity embraces all the pillars and extends toward the foot of the stairs on the right side of the building, as if they were the roots of a lush seed robustly sprouting to pronounce her defiance of the aridity of the concrete.

Simple song

The lights went out. Then the orchestra played a medley of her hits. When the Songbird sang the first note, it was barely audible. The door opened with lights coming only from the back. She sauntered onto the stage and she sang "Sing a Song," a very simple song.

Some thought it was a dud. The song is so simple that it could better fit in the relaxed mood of the later or middle part of the show. The entrance song must aim to build up emotions and must match the expectations of the audience arising from the impressive orchestra and backdrop. "Narito Ako" could have been more fitting as an opening salvo. Regine might have tired of doing this but her audiences have not yet tired of hearing it.

Music continued to weave its magic when Regine and RJ Rosales together did a medley of Broadway hits. You could sense the audience's hunger for the trademark high notes of the Songbird when they cheered in "Memory."

Memorable

"As If We Never Said Goodbye" is haunting and memorable.

Between serenading the crowd with her past hits, she would talk and try to relate some of the songs with the thrills and vision of Bantay Bata and her own soft spot for children. I found the attempt to interpret songs that would speak of these social concerns a bit trying hard. I don't think "Say That You Love Me" and

"Pagdating Ng Panahon" aptly illustrate these concerns. Maybe they thought "The Greatest Love of All" is too trite. Organizers could have come up with a theme song for its cause rather than invoking various songs every year to represent the foundation and its cause. This is an annual activity anyway.

Putting in Roselle Nava, Bituin Escalante and Carol Banawa was superfluous. I think ABS-CBN simply found it an opportune time to promote their in-house talents.

The show paid tribute to National Artists **Levi Celerio** and **Maestro Lucio San Pedro**. Regine and Ryan Cayabyab at the piano did not disappoint the audience. Regine even surprised the audience by stepping on the stool and sitting on top of the grand piano. They interpreted the lyrics and the music of the national artists in "Gaano Kita Kamahal," "Saan Ka Man Naroroon," "Ang Pipit," "Kahit Konting Pagtingin" and "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan." Wonderful! I thought it was one magical piece after another.

Indiscriminate

Regine poked fun at a balladeer's way of reviving **Ric Segreto's** original songs. Sometimes I think she is beginning to mimic **Alai de las Alas**. That night, it was really funny, although I overheard some people commenting that her jokes were misplaced and indiscriminate.

In a previous show, I found it charming when she said she had to wrap up the show since she had yet to go home to Bulacan and it was already past midnight.

Of course, Regine would not disappoint those who hunger for her signature high notes. She stood tall and mighty on the elevated left side of the huge letter R at the top of the National Museum stairs and belted out the dramatically arranged "On the Wings of Love."

The audience had more than its fill. I thought this number bested all the other songs in Regine's repertoire that night. I stood on my feet to applaud her.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	VIDEOKE KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SPID LUV
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDB)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DDB)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DDB)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DDB)	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DDB)	ROLLERBALL
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DDB)	BUKANG BIBIG
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DDB)	SPIDERMAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TIKIM / GIRLS
ODEON	VIDEOKE KING
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING
ROBEN	BUKANG BIBIG
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNCTIONS

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKANG BIBIG
REMAR	VIDEOKE KING
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	VIDEOKE KING
B	BUKANG BIBIG
C	SCORPION KING

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-2	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-5 (DDB)	E.T.
CINEMA-6	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-8	S2PID LUV
CINEMA-9 (DDB)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11 (DDB)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
CINEMA-15	VIDEOKE KING

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-4	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-5	HELP! I'M A FISH
CINEMA-6	SPIDERMAN

UNIWIIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No. 8981440-31

I AM SAM - GP 11:00, 1:35, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50	SPIDERMAN - GP 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	SPIDERMAN - GP 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:20
SPIDERMAN - GP 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20	HELP! I'M A FISH - GP 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40	SPIDERMAN - GP 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40

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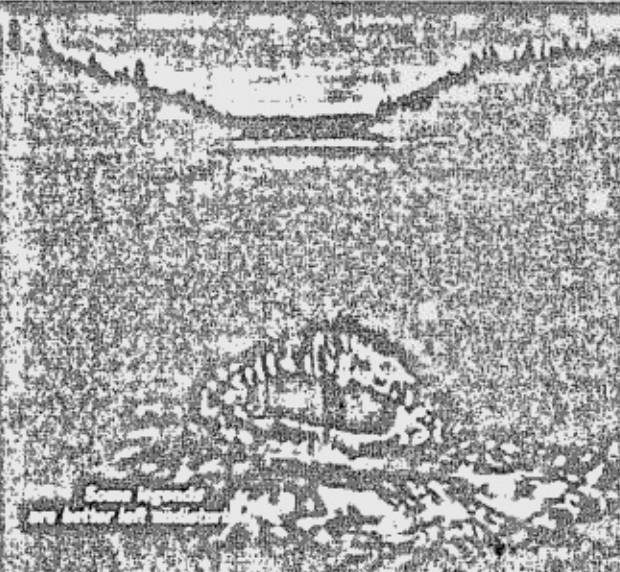
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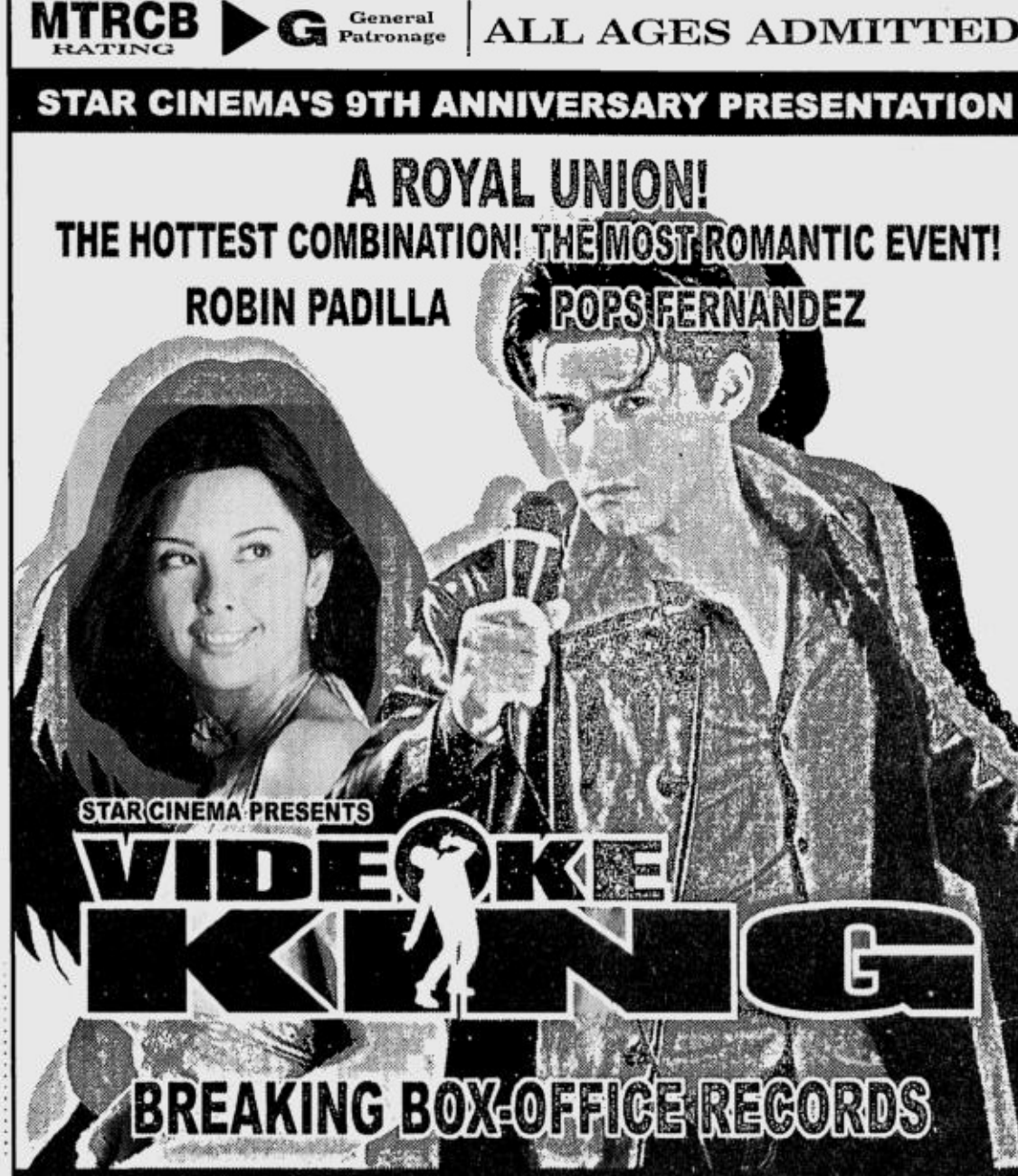
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Stars go from screen to stage

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

THEATER and film have always had a strong link. When movies were first made, producers got a lot of their stories and scripts from stage classics, and many of the first movie stars were trained in the theater.

Later, however, the movies paid so much more than the stage that stars focused exclusively on movie work. After some years, some of them got so bored with the shallow and even silly parts they had to essay on the big screen that they went back to acting in plays, where the money may have been minimal, but the roles were definitely challenging.

Thus did they sharpen the thespic skills that had been dulled by the predictable work they were doing in the movies. **Dustin Hoffman**, **Al Pacino**, **Richard Burton**, **Elizabeth Taylor** and other big stellar draws made the theater the place for stars to be in the '70s and '80s.

The same impulse to improve has prompted today's stars to similarly give the

big screen a rest in favor of limited runs in challenging stage productions.

Gwyneth Paltrow will star in "Proof" as a brilliant mathematician's troubled daughter. **Madonna** is doing "Up for Grabs," her first, play in 13 years. **Matt Damon** is acting in yet another stage drama in London.

Even younger stars are honing their craft in the theater this year. **Anna Paquin** and **Hayden Christensen** have gotten raves for their performances in "This I Our Youth."

They can't stay with the hit show for long,

but they are being replaced by other young Hollywood comers, **Matt Damon** and **Summer Phoenix**. The presence of young stars like them has gotten teens and young adults interested in watching stage plays for a change, and that's all to the good.

On the local scene, stars also act in plays, but they tend to be middle-range names or show biz celebrities whose TV-film careers are languishing.

When will big stars like **Cesar Montano**, **Sharon Cuneta**, **Vilma Santos** and **Aga Muhlach** sharpen their skills in stage plays or musicals? They would boost theater attendance here in a major way, as well as shine up their own credentials as gifted performers who aren't afraid of the daunting thespic challenge that theater has to offer.

In the '70s, stars like **Rita Gomez**, **Charito Solis**, **Hilda Koronel**, **Janice de Belen** and **Boots Anson-Roa** acted in stage plays at the height of their respective careers. Would that some of today's big stars would follow suit this year.

Quarterly finals

FROM 10 to 11 a.m. on May 12, GMA 7's "Digital LG Quiz Show" will hold its second Quarterly Final, with four whiz kids battling it out for a slot in the grand finals at the end of the year.

The quarter finalists are **Jed Andrei Yabut** of Colegio de San Juan de Letran, **Jonathan Joson** of De La Salle Zobel-Alabang, **Jeffrey Dolor** of Southridge Private School, and **Tonton Onido** of Ramon Magsaysay High School.

The show is hosted by **Paolo Bediones** and **Regine Tolentino**, and is produced by Alta Productions Group.

Celebrity of the Year' contenders

JENNIFER Lopez, **Mel Brooks**, **Destiny's Child**, **Nicole Kidman**, **Paul McCartney**, **N Sync**, **Madonna**, **Ray Romano**, **Julia Roberts** and **Denzel Washington** are some of the stars vying for *El* Entertainment Television's "Celebrity of the Year" award.

This year, *El* will be presenting its 12th annual award on a special edition of the network's new series, "Rank," which premieres at 8 p.m. on Sunday, May 12. "The Top Entertainers of 2001," hosted by **Brooke Burke**, will focus on the 20 stars who made a strong impact on the entertainment scene last year.

Past "Celebrity of the Year" winners include **Tom Cruise** (2000), **Julia Roberts** (1999), **Helen Hunt** (1998), **Will Smith** (1997), **Robin Williams** (1996), **Jim Carrey** (1995), **Tom Hanks** (1994), **Steven Spielberg** (1993), **Whoopi Goldberg** (1992), **Arnold Schwarzenegger** (1991) and **Kevin Costner** (1990).

Three-piano concert

A THREE-piano concert will be held at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 11 at the Francisco Santiago Hall in Makati City. Performing in the "key-board quarrel" show are **Najib Ismail**, **Mary Anne Espina** and **Jonathan Arevalo Coo**. Also featured is **Herminigildo Ranera** conducting a chamber ensemble made up of selected members of the PPO, MSPO, MPO and UST Symphony Orchestra.

The program will highlight **Percy Grainger's** arrangement of Bach's Toccata in F for Organ, one of two of Bach's concerto for Three Keyboards, and Mozart's Triple Piano Concerto in F Major. Call the MCO office at 813-3849.

Tagaytay workshops

ONGOING until May 17 are the Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops of the Creative Media Professionals Guild of the Asia Pacific. The workshops are marathon week-long seminars for enthusiasts in cinematography, television, graphic design, digital media, creative writing and communications strategies.

Handling the various workshops are **Leo Abaya**, **Salvii Casino**, **Giggy Garcia**, **Roy Iglesias**, **Ray Junia**, **Boo Kyler**, **Noel Lim**, **ChiChi Robles**, and other experts.

Classes are being held at the Development Academy of the Philippines. The workshops for May 6-10 are on being an on-camera talent, being a DJ, scripting for TV drama, producing TV and radio commercials, and digital editing. Call Vanessa at 925-1915 or 16.

MVP to guest in CNBC Asia

MANUEL V. Pangilinan, president and CEO of the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company, will be one of the high-powered CEOs from all over the region invited to speak in the CNBC Asia "Century of Leadership" series.

The TV special titled "Power of Leadership," puts together the region's prominent business leaders to discuss the issue of leadership and key attributes needed by the next generation of Asian leaders.

The program will be taped at Shangri-La Hotel Singapore in front of an exclusive, live studio audience made up of business leaders from Asia. Aside from the leadership series, Pangilinan will also have a one-on-one interview with CNBC hosts to talk about his corporate views as head of PLDT and the telecommunications industry in general.

Pangilinan's invitation to the CNBC "Power of Leadership" series comes on the heels of PLDT's phenomenal performance for the year 2001 and the first quarter of 2002.

The TV special on the Power of "Leadership" and the full "Century of Leadership" series will be aired by CNBC across its Asia-Pacific network.

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2 SPIDERMAN	2 SPIDERMAN	5 HELPI I'M A FISH	2 SPIDERMAN
3 SCORPION KING	3 SPIDERMAN	6 SPIDERMAN	3 VIDEOKE KING
4 SPIDERMAN	4 SPIDERMAN	7 SCORPION KING	4 SCORPION KING

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Tarlac - Camiling, Capaz, Concepcion, U.P. Paniqui, Victoria
Baguio - La Trinidad, Naguilan

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Lucena - Mauban, Tayabas, Legazpi, San Pablo, Pila, Sta. Cruz, Paete
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Mandaue - North Cebu/Mabolo, Mactan, Tagbilaran

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THE 1950 Cadena de Amor Festival held at the General del Pilar Parade Grounds, now better known as the Sunken Garden. At the right is Malcolm Hall and under construction on the left is Gonzalez Hall.

Post-War grads were some of UP's finest

The batch produced a virtual who's who of Philippine government, law, business, medicine, engineering and the arts

By Maita Domaual
Contributor

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines' Class of 1952 bore the marks of a society in recovery and renewal. Some of its students would gain their degrees from two campuses, from bomb-battered Padre Faura and then cogon-filled Diliman. Its roster became a virtual who's who of Philippine government, law, business, medicine, arts, literature and engineering, creating Philippine history in its wake.

They and other batches will come together on June 15 for the UP grand alumni homecoming at the Bahay ng Alumni to recall the past and celebrate UP's future.

The UP Class of 1952 produced a prime minister (Cesar A. Virata), a vice president (Salvador H. Laurel), five Cabinet secretaries, a chief justice (Marcelo B. Fernan) and four justices of the Supreme Court, six justices of the Court of Appeals, four congressmen, three senators, two Batasan Assemblymen, two provincial governors, 13 judges, four law school deans, one ambassador, seven government officials and six heads of international organizations. Four became generals (Jose Magno, Benjamin Vallejo, Benjamin Duque and Jaime Alfonso).

Writers of renown such as Virginia R. Moreno, Amelia Lapeña Bonifacio and Raul R. Ingles, to name a few, sharpened their minds and pencils in the company of Franz Arcellana and N.V.M. Gonzalez, both National Artists for Literature.

It was the class that gave Asia its "fashion czar," Jose "Pito" Moreno. The arts would find a two-syllable surname as unforgettable as the paintings of its creator, Juvenal Sansó. Celia Diaz shone onstage, under the able direction of the great Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, after whom the Liberal Arts little theater would eventually be named. Cellist Ernesto Epistola gained international recognition. Composer Ricardo Zamora became a TV director.

Medicine

Medicine for the first time produced three magna cum laudes: Dr. Magdalena B. Elicano, Dr. Francisco TVC Sison and Dr. Manuel Wo Ty Jr. The class has since contributed in various specialties and related medical services.

Four have founded hospitals (Dr. Emmanuel M. Almeda, Dr. Daniel O. Mercado, Dr. Rodolfo M. Poblete and Dr. Bernabe C. Singson), one (Dr. Josue L. Faustino) a drug company. Nine have written and contributed to medical textbooks. Three established medical-related services (Dr. Achilles G. Batollome, Dr. Romeo V. Fajardo, Dr. Roberto K. Macasaet). Two were National Licensing Board examiners (Dr. Olivia D. Dumlao-Gaerlan, Dr. Juan Y. Fuentes, Jr.), another became a New York State board examiner (Dr. Faustino V. Garcia). Many others have taught in medical schools, have headed hospitals and chaired departments and medical societies, and have gained multiple awards and distinctions.

True to the spirit of UP, many launched practices to serve the rural areas. In recent years, the class has brought medical missions to the country and funded new equipment, lab renovation and the construction of a medical library—all this although 85 percent of them now live abroad.

In dentistry, Dr. Primo Gonzalez became known as the dentist of presidents. He later became UP regent and chair of examiners for dentistry.

Nursing grads were just as distinguished. All passed the board exams with two (Clara Salvador and Revelina Romero) landing in the top 10.

In the sciences, math wizard Shen Lin, chemists Jose O. Jullano, Virginia Samson and Amando F. Kapauan Jr., pharmacist Remedios Ona, geologist Priscilla Militante and botanist Prescillano Zamora made their mark.

About 120 freshmen, mostly valedictorians and salutatorians of their schools from across the country, entered UP to obtain engineering degrees. In April 1952, only 66 graduated from civil engineering (CE), electrical engineering (EE), geodetic engineering (GE), mechanical engineering (ME) and metallurgical engineering (ME). Two ladies had originally taken CE, but only

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April in Baguio, or where have all the flowers gone?

By Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo
Contributor

I HAVE recently returned from a two-week stay in Baguio. I had a good time because it is simply impossible for me not to have a good time in that old mountain town. But Baguio itself seems determined to change this.

The downtown area was about as crowded as downtown Makati because Monday we were there had been declared a holiday and all the lowlanders had decided to drive up. Several streets had been torn up, because, as everyone knows, summer is the best time to repair the roads in the city's summer capital. The air was nearly unbearably, because the Clean Air Act is taken even less seriously here than in Metro Manila. The grass had dried up and the remaining flowers were drooping dismally because there had been no rain in months. The sidewalks were as battered and broken down as ever, and dirtier than they had been during our last visit. And one part of Session Road stank so badly (from a broken sewer? from 20 dead rats?) that pedestrians had to muffle their faces with scarves to keep from being knocked down dead by the stench.

But, like I said, I am biased for Baguio. I belong to the generation that remembers it as a magical land—wrapped in pale mist or drenched in soft sunlight, smelling of strawberries and pine trees. A clean, quiet place, where one bundled up in thick sweaters, went for long walks under tall, tall trees, took boat rides and pony rides, hunted for pine cones, roasted marshmallows in a stone fireplace...

So, instead of throwing up my arms in the air and vowing to go next summer to Batanes instead, I foolishly convinced myself that if I wrote down my gripes, and if the PDI pub-

APRIL/p.D7

A general state of seediness and disrepair afflicts the city



THE WRITING Fellows of the 40th UP National Writers' Workshop, perched among the pine trees outside the Hotel Veneracion.



PART of the teaching panel and staff, working through lunch at the Forest Garden Bistro and Café: (from left) Charlson Ong, Ricky de Ungria, Jimmy Abad, Jing Hidalgo and April Yap



A TREK through the woods, led by Butch Dallsay, Neil Garcia, Jing Hidalgo and Carla Pacis

mEDex MEDICAL EXPERTS ON ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION Editorial

This week's columnist:



Juliano Z.K. Panganiban, M.D.
Urologic Surgeon
St. Luke's Medical Center and
Chinese General Hospital

"Problem...what problem?"



Did you know that more than half of all men over 40 have had a problem with getting and keeping an erection? Around the world, over 100 million men (1 in every 10) worry about not being able to have an erection at some point in their lives. It is a very common experience!

Physical factors causing ED

What is ED? ED or Erectile Dysfunction (also called Impotence) is the inability to get and/or maintain an erection that is satisfactory for sexual activity.

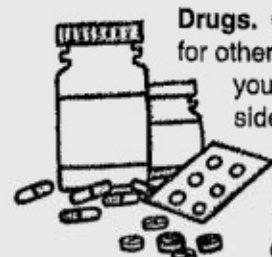
Among the physical problems that may cause ED are:

Aging. Sometimes, the aging process causes a change in the sexual habits and abilities of men. This doesn't happen to everyone, but changes can occur in the time it takes to get and keep an erection. It's all perfectly natural, and there may be a solution.

Illnesses. As men age, there are lots of common diseases that can cause problems in getting and keeping an erection. Illnesses such as diabetes mellitus, hypertension (hardening of the arteries with increase in blood pressure), other cardiovascular diseases, stroke, and injury to your penis can all cause problems. If a man has prostate

cancer and is treated with hormonal therapy, radiotherapy or surgery, this may also result in erectile dysfunction. Other illnesses such as kidney and liver diseases can affect one's sex life. For long-term illnesses, this can be a slow process and the loss of ability in having an erection might not even be noticed for quite a while.

Accidents and Operations. Some men may have problems with sex after they have had a spinal cord and/or pelvic trauma or operations. This is usually because there had been some damage to the nerves or blood vessels supplying the penis. Operations in the lower body such as prostate, bladder or rectal surgery, may also give rise to erectile dysfunction.



Drugs. Over 200 drugs used for other illnesses may affect your sex life. This kind of side effect may be only short term. Yet, it is still important that the prescribed drugs are taken.

"I hear that smoking and alcohol can cause impotence...is this true?"

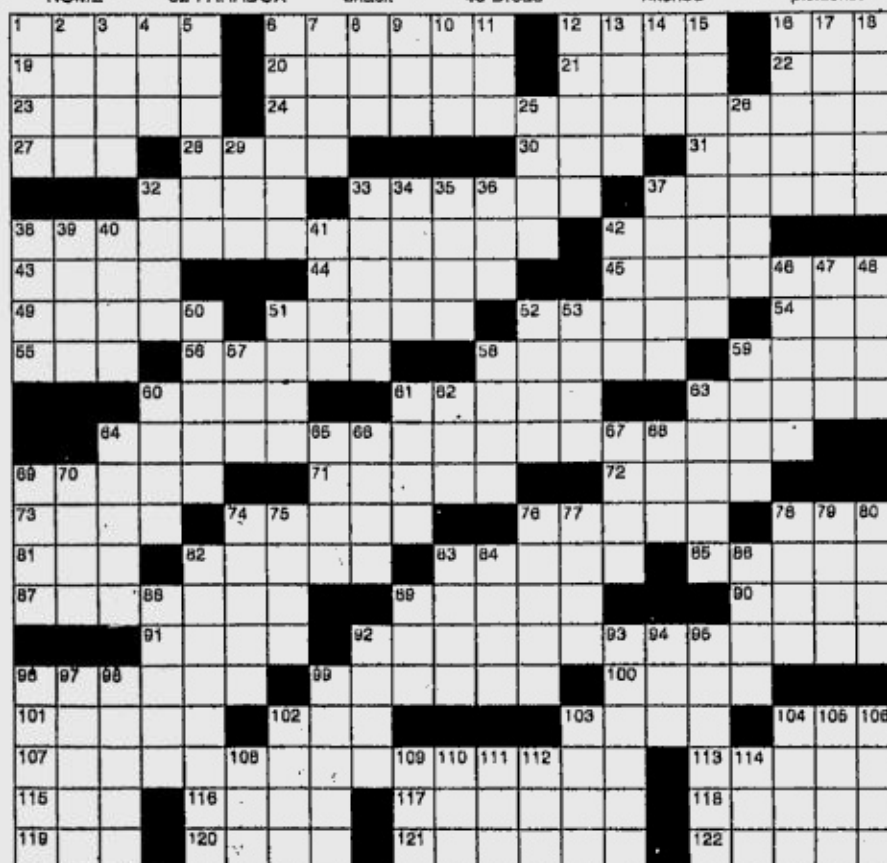
Drinking too much alcohol or smoking may damage the blood vessels and nerves that affect your ability to have an erection. Giving up any of these may have a positive effect on your sex life—if the habit is stopped in time.



(to be continued...)
More on ED in next week's column.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Assert
 - 6 Booth
 - 12 Soft lump
 - 16 Palm
 - 19 Tom of "Amadeus"
 - 20 Herbivorous lizard
 - 21 Verdi
 - 22 heroine
 - 23 Mineral spring
 - 24 CAUTERIZE
 - 27 Favorite
 - 28 Not as much
 - 30 He'll give you a squeeze
 - 31 Tremble
 - 32 Rock's — the Hoople
 - 33 TV's "Highway to —"
 - 37 Civil War era senator
 - 38 POLYGON
 - 42 Prepare cherries
 - 43 Part of Q.E.D.
 - 44 Senator Specter
 - 45 METRONOME
 - 49 Wading bird
 - 51 Banishes bacteria
 - 52 Blueprints
 - 54 Neckline style
 - 55 Thompson or Salonga
 - 56 At daybreak
 - 58 Objective
 - 59 Ms. Lollobrigida
 - 60 Big rig
 - 61 Tic
 - 63 Martha Stewart's concern
 - 64 MINIMUM
 - 69 Legendary Yankee
 - 71 Playwright Clifford
 - 72 Hold up
 - 73 Soap additive
 - 74 '92 Presidential contender
 - 76 Serenity
 - 78 Promise
 - 81 Ipanema's locale
 - 82 Hall or Hannah
 - 83 "Manon" melodies
 - 85 Christopher of "Deathtrap"
 - 87 INFANTRY
 - 89 Leaves out
 - 90 Eloquent equine
 - 91 Up on
 - 92 PARADOX
 - 96 Fusillade
 - 99 With 89. Down, playground fixture
 - 100 Lament
 - 101 Diarist Nin
 - 102 Aachen article
 - 103 Nomad pad
 - 104 Sternward
 - 107 MARIGOLD
 - 113 Not as common
 - 115 Catchall abbr.
 - 116 Beeshive
 - 117 Yasser —
 - 118 Join forces
 - 119 Comic Charlotte
 - 120 Betting setting
 - 121 Engines
 - 122 Salmon serving
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Bloke
 - 2 Decey
 - 3 Came down to earth
 - 4 " — Station Zebra" ('88 film)
 - 5 Laid-back
 - 6 Farm feature
 - 7 Corporate clasher
 - 8 Squirrel's snack
 - 9 Stadium shout
 - 10 " — Fine Day" ('63 tune)
 - 11 — es
 - 12 Solt's stick
 - 13 Ford or Grey
 - 14 Horatian creation
 - 15 Feasts
 - 16 Oriental
 - 17 Wheel part
 - 18 More rational
 - 25 Drive the getaway car
 - 26 — tuck
 - 29 LAX
 - 32 Spouse
 - 33 Master Potter
 - 34 Agatha's colleague
 - 35 Son of Zeus
 - 36 Max — Sydow
 - 37 Economize
 - 38 Stagger
 - 39 Be an advocate
 - 40 Japan's first capital
 - 41 Chef Frudhomme
 - 42 Analyze poetry
 - 46 Dialogue
 - 47 Carson's successor
 - 48 Dread
 - 50 Singer Marie
 - 51 Nursery furniture
 - 52 Fitzzy
 - 53 Like a wet noodle
 - 57 TV's "Judging —"
 - 58 Generic grade?
 - 59 Follow
 - 60 Sovereign's title
 - 61 Manuscript imperative
 - 62 Prepare cherries
 - 63 Table
 - 64 Girl Scout unit
 - 65 Actor Calhoun
 - 66 Matinee —
 - 67 Rueful cry
 - 68 Rooker
 - 69 See 99
 - 70 Literary pseudonym
 - 74 Unless garment
 - 75 Therefore
 - 76 Succinct
 - 77 Word with mark or money
 - 78 Actress Miles
 - 79 Pizzeria equipment
 - 80 Gets hitched
 - 82 Colossal fossil
 - 83 Out of control
 - 84 Ready to eat
 - 86 Runner Zatopek
 - 88 Furious
 - 89 "My — True Love" ('54 song)
 - 92 Reggae's Peter
 - 93 Cake and candy
 - 94 Actor Ziering
 - 95 — Heights, CA
 - 96 Morley of "60 Minutes"
 - 97 "West Side Story" role
 - 98 "Camelot" prop
 - 99 Swaggering
 - 102 Anthropologist Fossey
 - 103 Dictator
 - 104 Racer
 - 105 Chalky cheese
 - 106 Arduous journey
 - 108 Hwy.
 - 109 "I Am —" ('01 film)
 - 110 In favor of
 - 111 Pabulum variety
 - 112 Tabloid filler
 - 114 Unpopular picnicer



Should you have questions about E.D. or comments regarding this column, please write to: Pfizer mEDex (mEDex@Pfizer.com)
Pfizer, Inc. 23/F Ayala Life-FGU Center 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines

ANSWER ON PAGE F3



RENE Florencio, Naty Papas, Sen. Manny Villar, Raffy Florencio and Vilma Valera

Jewelry store's Makati showroom opens

RAFAEL Jewellery formally opened its newest showroom at the mezzanine level of the Makati Shangri-La on April 19.

Guests at the blessing and ribbon-cutting ceremonies were led by Sen. Manny Villar. Fr. Gene Castaneda officiated.

Among those who attended were Trade and Industry Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez, Peggy Ty of MetroBank, Vilma Valera, Naty Papas, Marivic Madrigal-Vasquez, Consul Fortune Ledesma, Marietta Santos, Rachy Cuna, Jerika Ejercito and Bebu Bulchand.

Also, Rene and Cora Florencio and daughter Mia, the woman behind Moissanite; Robert Castañeda, Lincoln Yao, Josie Sy, Olivia and Vay Ng. Actresses Rachel Lobangco and Dina Bonnevie came with Vicky Puno and Haydee Castillo.

TechnoMarine's new general manager Jerome Garcia and TechnoMarine brand manager Ciara Sevilla were seen entertaining Bubut Andres, Dennis Aquino, Goody Ilagan, Cory Quirino, Penny Lastimoso, Mary Grace Katigbak, Riza Oreta, Inq7's Paolo Prieto, Metro editor Thema San Juan and Freida Dario, among others.



JERIKA Ejercito

For the new showroom, architect Dan Lichauco used dark wood, stainless steel, glass and kamagong to complement the fine jewelry and watches.

Raffy Florencio, Rafael Jewellery's general manager and owner, has been in the business for six years. The store will be coming out with collections every three to four months, and it hopes to introduce its jewelry designs outside the country soon.



ROBERT Castañeda and Rene Florencio



MIA Florencio, Natasha Sewani, Jane Yu, Cory Quirino and Cora Florencio



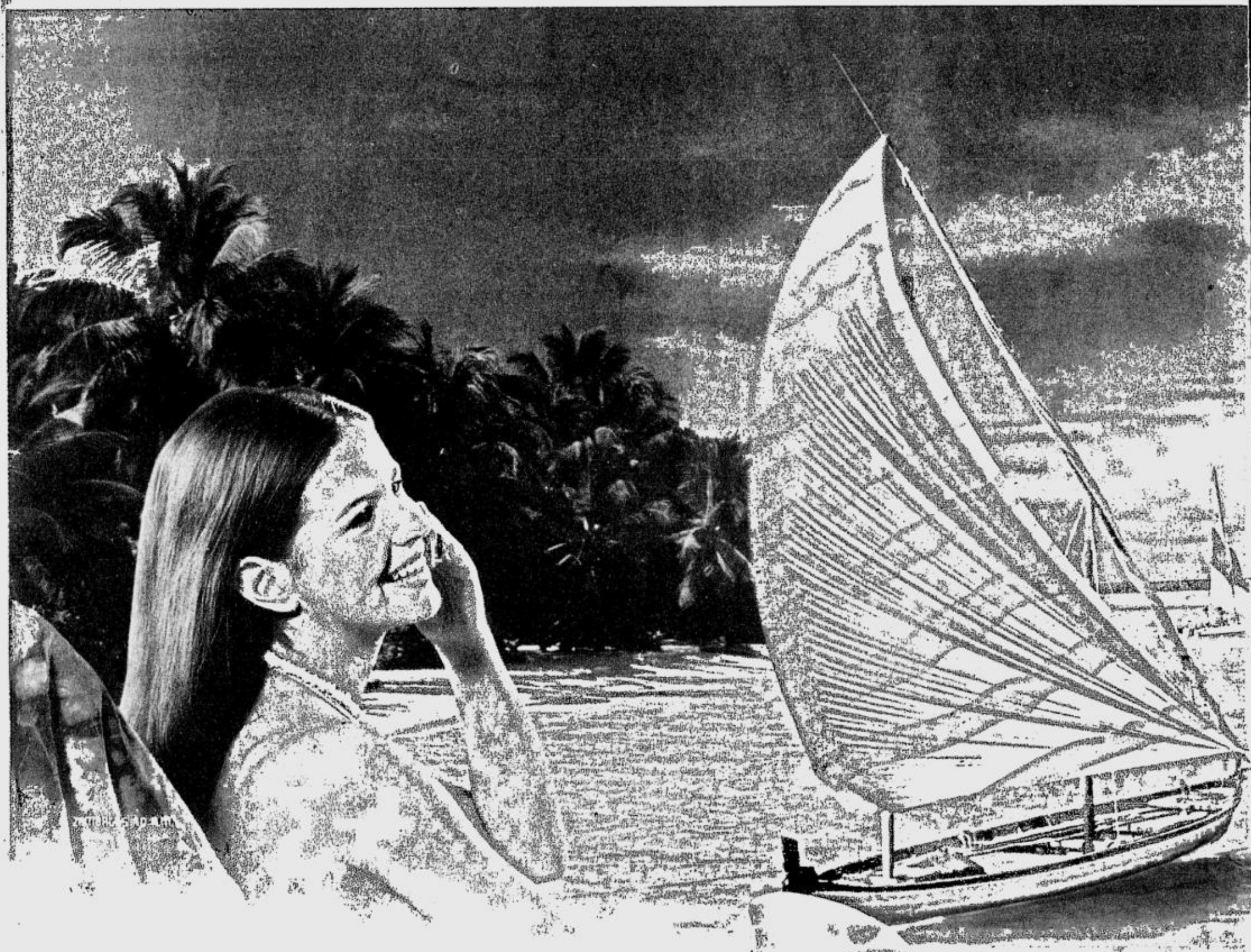
VICKY Vasquez, Vilma Valera, Marietta Santos and Susan Laudico



PEGGY Ty, Nympha Yatco, Raffy Florencio and Josie Lagman



LINCOLN Yao, Josie Sy, Florence Ko, Sui Ping Par



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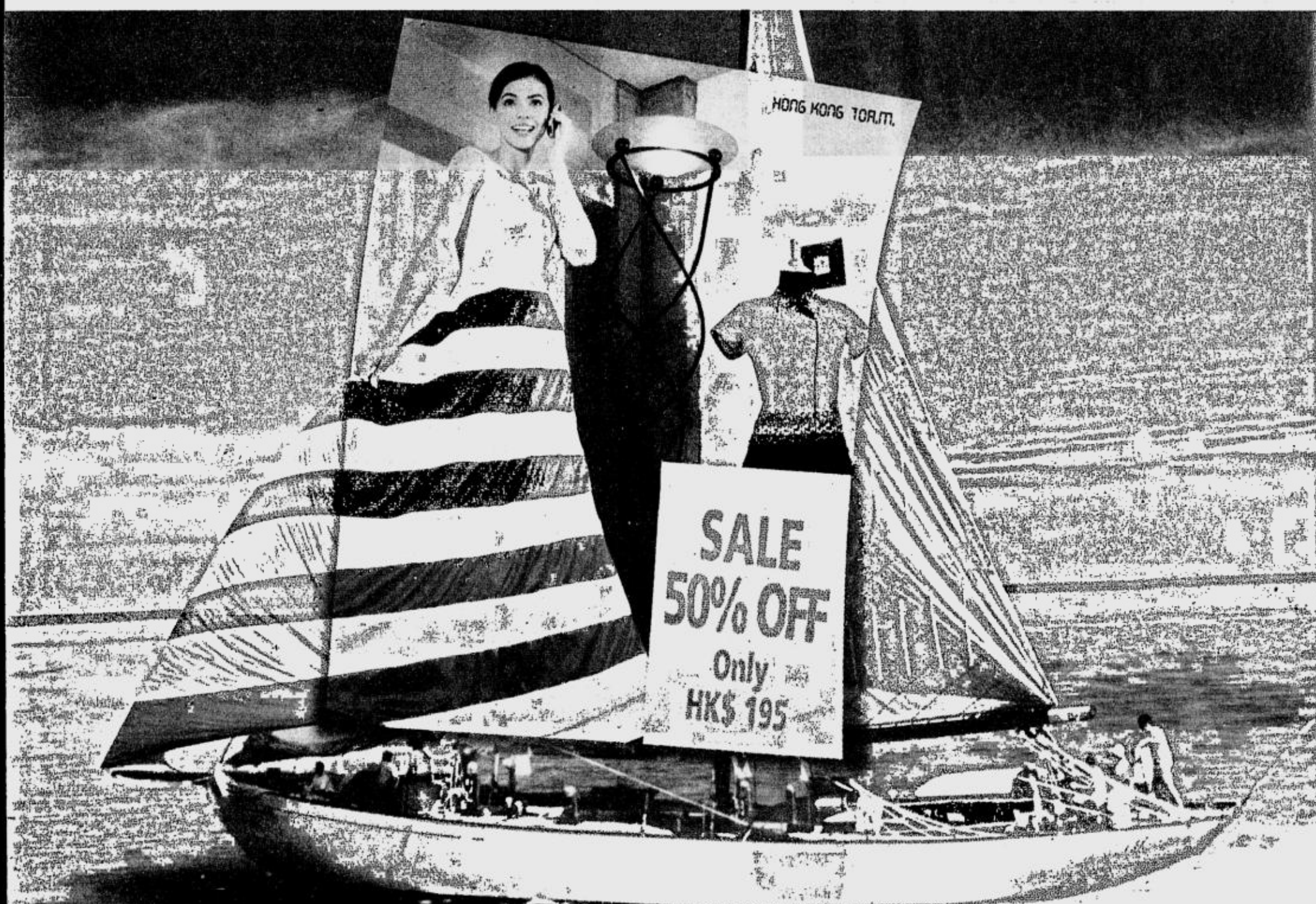
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LIFE seemed utterly simple in the 1950s with bonfires and hotdogs to pass the night away.



WELL applauded native float of the College of Pharmacy during the traditional lantern parade

Post-War grads were some of UP's finest

From page D1

Nancy Lai graduated, recalls engineering Prof. Dom I. Ilio. Notables in the class included the late Gaston "Gasti" Ortigas, Jackie Los Baños, Dr. Salvador F. Reyes, Dr. Ernesto G. Tabujara, Ric Quebral, Tony Tanchuling and Remy Ortiz.

Like many of their batchmates, the would-be engineers began their UP education on Padre Faura in June 1948. Makeshift shelters still leaned on the remains of walls and shattered buildings. The campus had been occupied by the Japanese Army and had been severely damaged during the liberation of Manila. The transfer to the 493-hectare Diliman campus in QC, planned as early as 1938, finally pushed through. By January 1949, students wandered around grassy plains dotted with former installations of the US Army.

Malcolm Hall temporarily housed the University Library, which had over 214,000 volumes, periodicals, theses, music scores and phonograph records destroyed during the war. The College of Law moved into the building in 1951. Liberal arts students got their building a year earlier, and before that, education students moved into their own building, kicking out The Collegian staff.

The feisty Collegian, edited by a member of Class '52, was the only university paper in its time with a foreign war correspondent. It was a young reporter who covered the Korean War and sent separate dispatches to The Manila Times. His missives were published in the first semester of 1950-1951 with his byline, Benigno Aquino Jr.

Future veterinarians studied in a far corner of the campus and were teased as the "lost college." That lot is fronted today by the College of Mass Communication or Plaridel Hall.

New campus

Much of the campus had served as the base of the US Army's Southwest Pacific HQ. The largest quonset hut containing the enlisted men's bowling alley was converted as the staff office of the College of Engineering. One-room cottages became drafting rooms and classrooms. The enlisted men's lounge room became the college's library. By late 1951, the college moved into a four-story building with a roof deck and an edifice designed by Marsman & Company. The college's famous sundial was soon set up as well. With newspapers scarce, the engineers put up their own Diliman Daily and printed it on scrap paper.

Young men settled into the men's barracks where the Yakal and Ipil dorms now stand. Ladies were housed in the nurse's quarters, now occupied by Ilang-ilang dorm and the International Center.

The campus was relatively isolated from the rest of Manila, with buses taking a circuitous route from España Extension to Cubao, through Aurora Boulevard to Marikina and turning left to the gravel road of Balara before reaching UP.

Perhaps a major inspiration for the university as a whole came when the Oblation was led in a motorcade from Padre Faura to Diliman in 1949. It was accompanied "by a long motorcade of alumni, faculty and students as was never seen before," according to an account.

Students found that buildings were not the only new constructions. Life was being stabilized, traditions being remembered and upheld—the Lantern Parade, the Cadena de Amor and the Euthenics classes that refined the young ladies. The music of the Carillon would finally be heard in August 1952.

Whether on Padre Faura, where the College of Medicine and School of Nursing had re-



ARACELI Limcaoco-Dans (left), Juvenal Sansó (second from left) and classmates



FUN with friends for these students of UP Diliman in the '50s. Waving is Pitoy Moreno. Note the military installation left over by the US Army on the left.



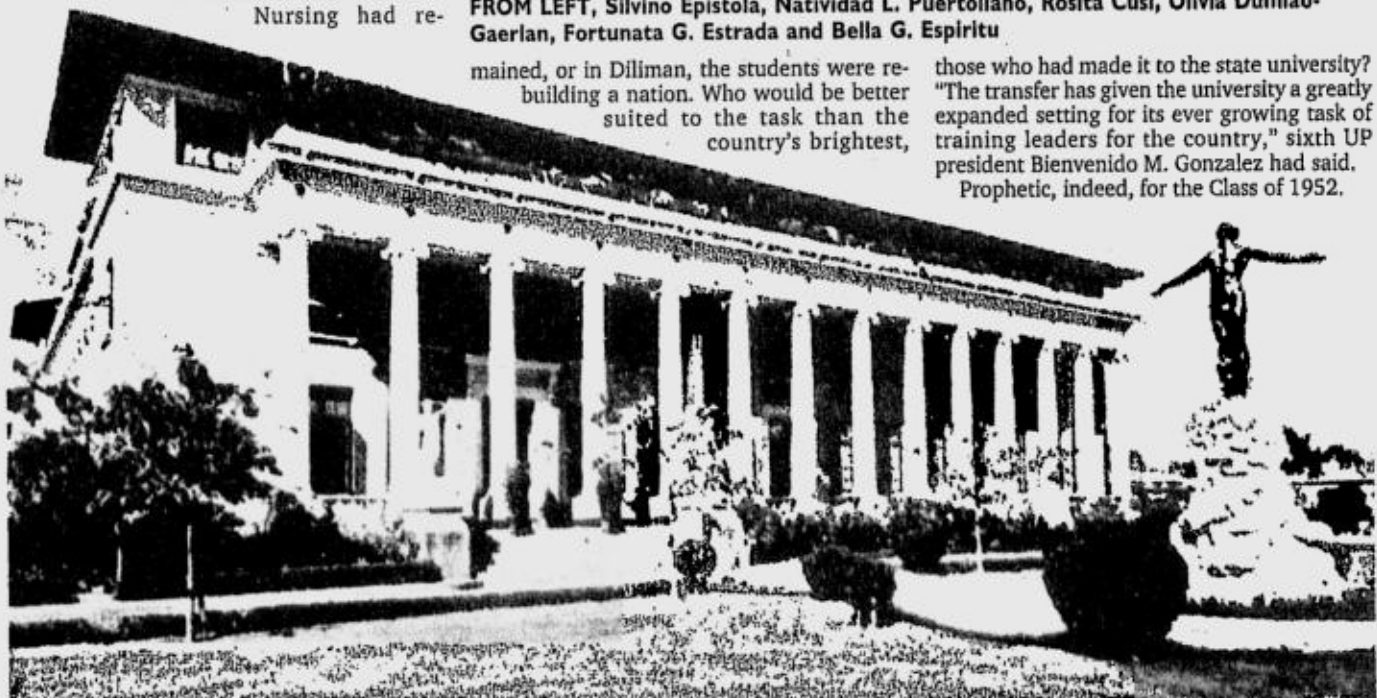
THE GOLDEN Jubilarians Class 1952 during the recent meeting to plan its general alumni homecoming and reunion on June 15 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman. Seated are, from left, Juvenal Sansó, Silvino V. Epistola. At right is Batch '52 Committee president Salvador H. Laurel briefing committee members.



FROM LEFT, Silvino Epistola, Natividad L. Puertollano, Rosita Cusi, Olivia Dumlaog-Gaerlan, Fortunata G. Estrada and Bella G. Espiritu

mained, or in Diliman, the students were rebuilding a nation. Who would be better suited to the task than the country's brightest,

those who had made it to the state university? "The transfer has given the university a greatly expanded setting for its ever growing task of training leaders for the country," sixth UP president Bienvenido M. Gonzalez had said. Prophetic, indeed, for the Class of 1952.



GUILLERMO Tolentino's Oblation as it stood in the Padre Faura Campus before the war.

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SPECIAL guests Lourdes Reyes Montinola and Gizela Gonzales-Montinola (first and third from left) with Neil Garcia, Evelina Galang, Jimmy Abad and Carla Pacis

April in Baguio, or where have all the flowers gone?

From page D2

lished them, maybe someone with the power to do something about Baguio would get his act together and do it!

Most competitive workshop

The reason I was up there was the 40th UP Creative Writing Center's National Writers' Workshop. For the last 10 years, the CWC has been holding its summer Writers' Workshop in Baguio. It is the second oldest of the country's writing workshops, certainly the most competitive, and the only one which offers 20 fellowships to writers in four languages, and boasts a teaching panel of 20 of the country's top writers. (This year's panelists: Jimmy Abad, Ariel Agcaoli, Rio Almaro, Caloy Aureus, Amelia Bonifacio, Butch Dalisay, Ricky de Ungria, Neil Garcia, Anton Juan, Domeng Landicho, Pete Lacaba, Marra Lanot, Bien Lumbera, Vim Nadera, Charlson Ong, Carla Pacis, Jun Cruz Reyes, Lilia Santiago, Rene Villanueva and the author. Guest panelist was visiting Pil-Am fictionist Evelina Galang.)

Former Baguio Mayor Mauricio Domogan always claimed that it was an honor for Baguio to host the Workshop. And his cordial hospitality was much appreciated. But holding it there may no longer be feasible. It's becoming bad for our health.

In 1992, the city had not quite recovered from the devastating earthquake of 1990, but it was making a valiant effort. That was actually its chance to make a clean breast of it, to rectify past mistakes. But, as Kidlat Tahimik (who had been Eric de Guia in college) complained to his old friend, my husband Tony, it was blundering along in exactly the same old way. For a while, there seemed to be a genuine effort to set things right, to clean up the city, replace the vanished trees, revive the flowers, showcase the native culture. But, at the same time, the hills were sprouting more squatter shanties, the streets were getting clogged by more dilapidated jeepneys. In any case, the renewal was short-lived. But since all of us at the CWC had known the city in that earlier time, we were reluctant to give up on it.

The first few years, the workshop venue was UP Baguio. Then we moved to the Hotel Salome along Laoakan Road, a quaint old house converted into an inn. There was one year when we tried the Josedinno on Military Cut-off Road, and last year, we went to Villa Romana, on Padcal Road. The Josedinno was clean and efficient, but lacked ambience and even the tiniest garden. And Villa Romana, while it had all the advantages of its high perch (fresh air, pine scent, wildflowers, butterflies and fireflies, misty dawns, cold starlit nights), had all the disadvantages as well—water scarcity, no easy ac-



MIGS Villanueva and artist Bencab

cess to cabs, etc.

Favorite haunts

So, this year, we were back at the Salome, now renamed Hotel Veneracion. (Our special guests—Lourdes Reyes Montinola and her daughter Gianna—discovered to their surprise that the hotel was the old Montinola summer home. The patriarch's initials are still inscribed in stone before the fireplace.) It was several shades shabbier than our recollection of it, and the menu had lost some of its abundance and variety. The hall rugs were threadbare. One room was missing a window screen. One bathroom had a sink that would, without warning, detach itself from the wall and land on the lap of whoever was using the toilet bowl. Another had no sink at all. A third had a heater that didn't work. All a reflection of the general state of seediness and disrepair that afflicts the city itself.

But its location—so close to Session Road—was as convenient as ever. The staff was as cheerful and helpful. And, in any case, nothing succeeded in dampening the spirits of either the fellows or the panelists. We pored gamely over the manuscripts each night and tore them apart cheerfully the next day. Then we trooped off to the Forrest House Bistro and Café next door, or to the new Mario's, or to the trade fair inside the renovated Camp, or to our favorite haunts—Café by the Ruins (for the great salads, the pan de sal with fish roe paste, the strawberries), Biscotti in Nevada Square (for the coffee), the Brewery (which has lost the terrific singer who packed it in last summer but still has a fine sax player and pianist).

And there were the other activities, which have become part of the Workshop's yearly rituals—the pilgrimage to artist Bencab's Tam-awan Village and to his lovely home and studio (this year to watch him work on a portrait of Amelia L. Bonifacio); after-dinner drinks at the Mirador Hill home of Professor Delfin Tolentino, where every little corner contains a thing of beauty; Literary Night and Fellows' Night

at Villa Romana; graduation dinner at Café Legarda...

I am certain the Fellows went dancing in Spirits and drinking in Café San Luis, and foraging for treasures at the ukay-ukay (recently declared illegal and resuscitated as wagwagan). And I'm sure that their adventures and misadventures there are a more precious part of their Workshop memories than any lectures they listened to.

Family rites

After the workshop was over, the family came up to celebrate Tony's birthday. So, besides dinner by firelight at Le Soufflé in the Camp, we got to do the other stuff which forms part of our own family's Baguio rites: Rose Bowl for ho to tay, Burnham Park to get our shoes shined while reading the newspapers, O Mai Khan for



SOME of the 20-man strong teaching panel (first row, from left) workshop director Ariel Agcaoli, Jimmy Abad and Carla Pacis; (second row) Domeng Landicho, Pete Lacaba, Lilia Q. Santiago, Butch Dalisay, CWC director Jing Hidalgo and Rio Almaro



PERFORMING during Fellows' Night at Villa Romana: Joseph Tuazon, Ariel Tabag and Reagan Maiquez.

delicious Mongolian barbecue, St. Louis for silver trinkets, Good Shepherd's for ube jam, strawberry jam and peanut brittle, the market for vegetables and broomsticks. Our daughters have added a couple of new rituals—expeditions to wagwagan and late din-

ner at the delightful Fifties Diner, with its framed glamour pictures of the great Hollywood stars, its jukebox, its miniature cokes, its waitresses on roller skates and its Elvis look-alike proprietor.

So, yes, we did have fun. But how much nicer it all would be if

the streets were cleaned, the garbage collected, the drainage repaired, the awful artificial sunflowers on the islands replaced with the fresh blooms for which Baguio is rightly celebrated. And maybe the smoke-belching jeepneys could be hauled off to a junkyard. And maybe Session Road could be closed to vehicles and lined with sidewalk cafés and prettier shops. And Baguio's resident artists might set up little booths and display their work, and the resident musicians might make music for the tourists enjoying their coffee in the sunlight or their tapuey in the moonlight, and the resident seers might read palms or tarot cards or runes or the I-Ching.

And though the old magic is gone forever—evanescence being essential to magic—April in Baguio would beckon again, and again, and again.

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4 Chicken Macaroni Soup P15

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5 Garden Fresh Salad P25

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CLOWNING around after the sessions (counterclockwise from left) Jeff Espiritu, Francis Martinez, Beverly Sly, Marlon Villegas, Estelito Jacob, Vladimir Gonzales, Ariel Tabag, Rizaldy Manrique, Joneen Garcia, Rachel Tesoro and Imelda Aznar



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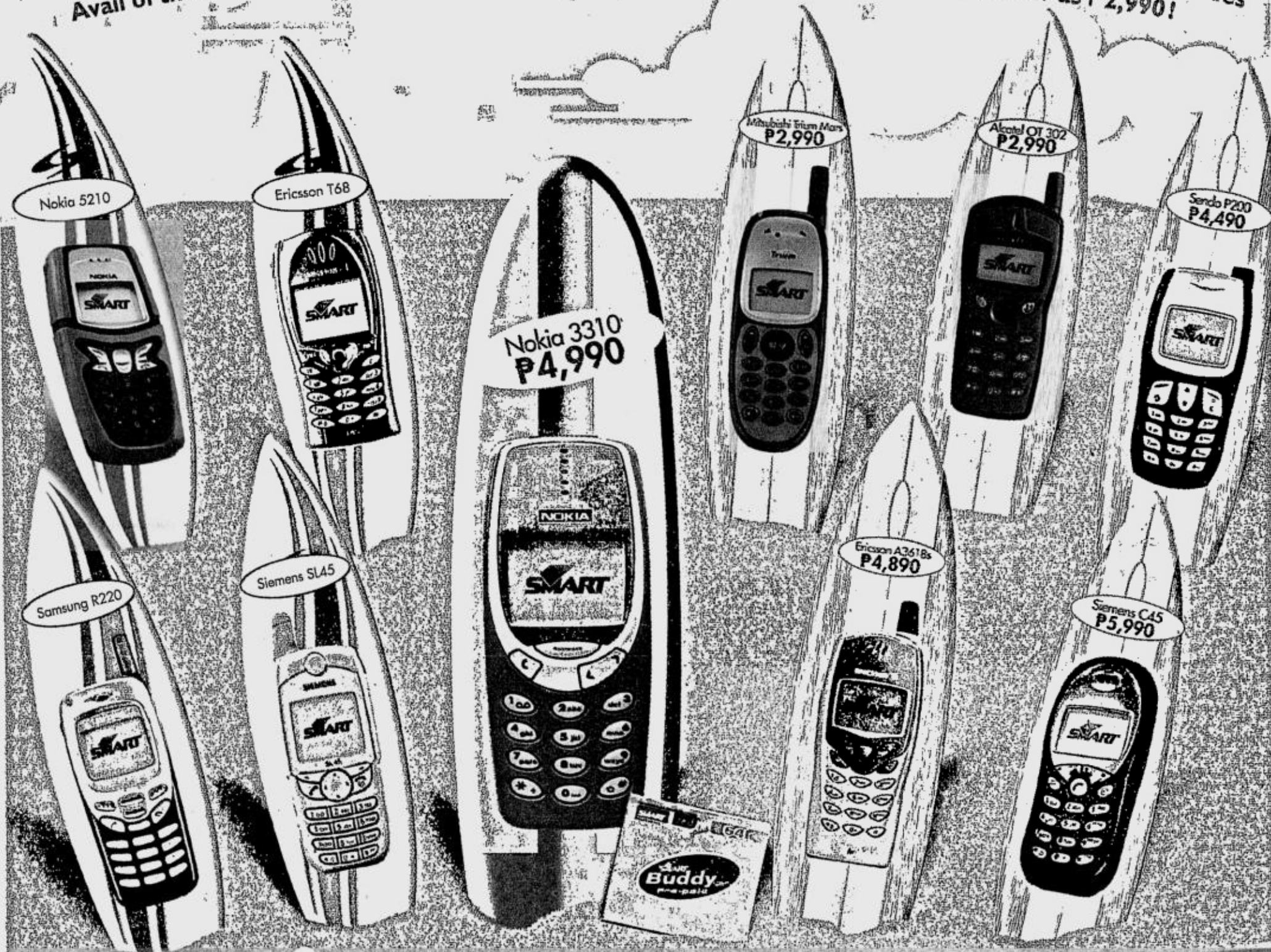
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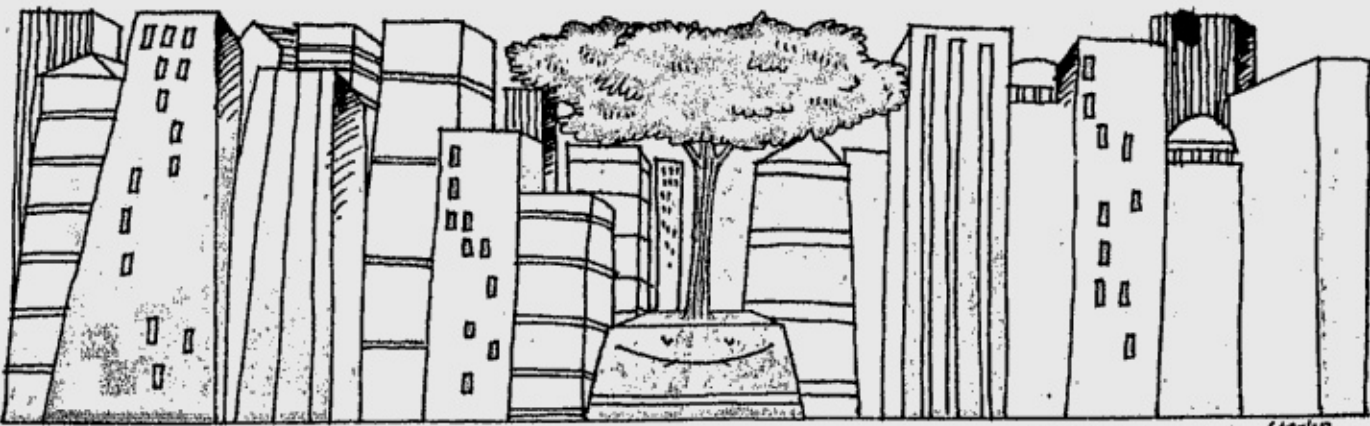
Purchase a SMART Nokia 3310 celfone and get a chance to win as much as P2 million in the weekly draw!

SMART R U LOADED? PROMO

Load your SMART BUDDY celfone and get a chance to win P50,000, P150,000 or P250,000 in the weekly draw!

Visit us at all SMART Wireless Centers, TSI stores, TSI blitzes, and Major Dealers' outlets nationwide and at all Shockwave sites!

METRO MANILA:
 Alibangbang Town Center (CJ Bonifacio near National Bookstore, C/L New Wing in front of Home-A-Rest, 2nd Building - 2/F)
 Festival Mall, Alibangbang (P/L in front of Atrium near to SM Fairview (CJ/F in front of SM-AC)
 SM Megamall (5/F, 7/F, 2/F, 3/F, 4/F, 5/F, 6/F, 7/F, 8/F, 9/F, 10/F, 11/F, 12/F, 13/F, 14/F, 15/F, 16/F, 17/F, 18/F, 19/F, 20/F, 21/F, 22/F, 23/F, 24/F, 25/F, 26/F, 27/F, 28/F, 29/F, 30/F, 31/F, 32/F, 33/F, 34/F, 35/F, 36/F, 37/F, 38/F, 39/F, 40/F, 41/F, 42/F, 43/F, 44/F, 45/F, 46/F, 47/F, 48/F, 49/F, 50/F, 51/F, 52/F, 53/F, 54/F, 55/F, 56/F, 57/F, 58/F, 59/F, 60/F, 61/F, 62/F, 63/F, 64/F, 65/F, 66/F, 67/F, 68/F, 69/F, 70/F, 71/F, 72/F, 73/F, 74/F, 75/F, 76/F, 77/F, 78/F, 79/F, 80/F, 81/F, 82/F, 83/F, 84/F, 85/F, 86/F, 87/F, 88/F, 89/F, 90/F, 91/F, 92/F, 93/F, 94/F, 95/F, 96/F, 97/F, 98/F, 99/F, 100/F, 101/F, 102/F, 103/F, 104/F, 105/F, 106/F, 107/F, 108/F, 109/F, 110/F, 111/F, 112/F, 113/F, 114/F, 115/F, 116/F, 117/F, 118/F, 119/F, 120/F, 121/F, 122/F, 123/F, 124/F, 125/F, 126/F, 127/F, 128/F, 129/F, 130/F, 131/F, 132/F, 133/F, 134/F, 135/F, 136/F, 137/F, 138/F, 139/F, 140/F, 141/F, 142/F, 143/F, 144/F, 145/F, 146/F, 147/F, 148/F, 149/F, 150/F, 151/F, 152/F, 153/F, 154/F, 155/F, 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Sunday **LIFESTYLE**ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO **stephB.**

Companies are learning to gauge success not just by profits

UNTIL RECENTLY, a company aimed primarily to produce quality goods and services and sell these at a fair profit. Its activities were designed to boost sales and contribute to the bottom-line; social or outreach activities were done mostly for public relations.

With the worsening state of the economy and socio-political climate, however, businesses are now realizing that there is a very thin line between corporate success and national development.

NEW WAYS OF GIVING

Executives look beyond figures and Return on Investment, for something that lends business a human face and heart

Companies now understand that they, too, have responsibilities as corporate citizens. Thus, they are now working to clean up not only their own backyard, but also the larger community where they operate. Their social involvement in communities promotes the growth and vitality of the economy, reinforces organizational and personal values, and motivates employees to contribute to social change within their own spheres of influence.

Bernadette Francisco is an employee of a telecommunications company. She has been with the company for a little over two years. When asked about the organization's socially responsible activities, she cited its involvement in Children's Hour, a worldwide fundraising campaign in 1999, as an excellent example of corporate social responsibility. The campaign allowed employees to make voluntary contributions from their monthly paychecks to youth and education programs.

Francisco believes that socially responsible campaigns promote an organization's growth because "they promote cooperation throughout the company, from the president down to employees. These also help us become more committed to our jobs because the programs make us realize how fortunate we are to have a steady source of income."

COMPANIES/ p.E2

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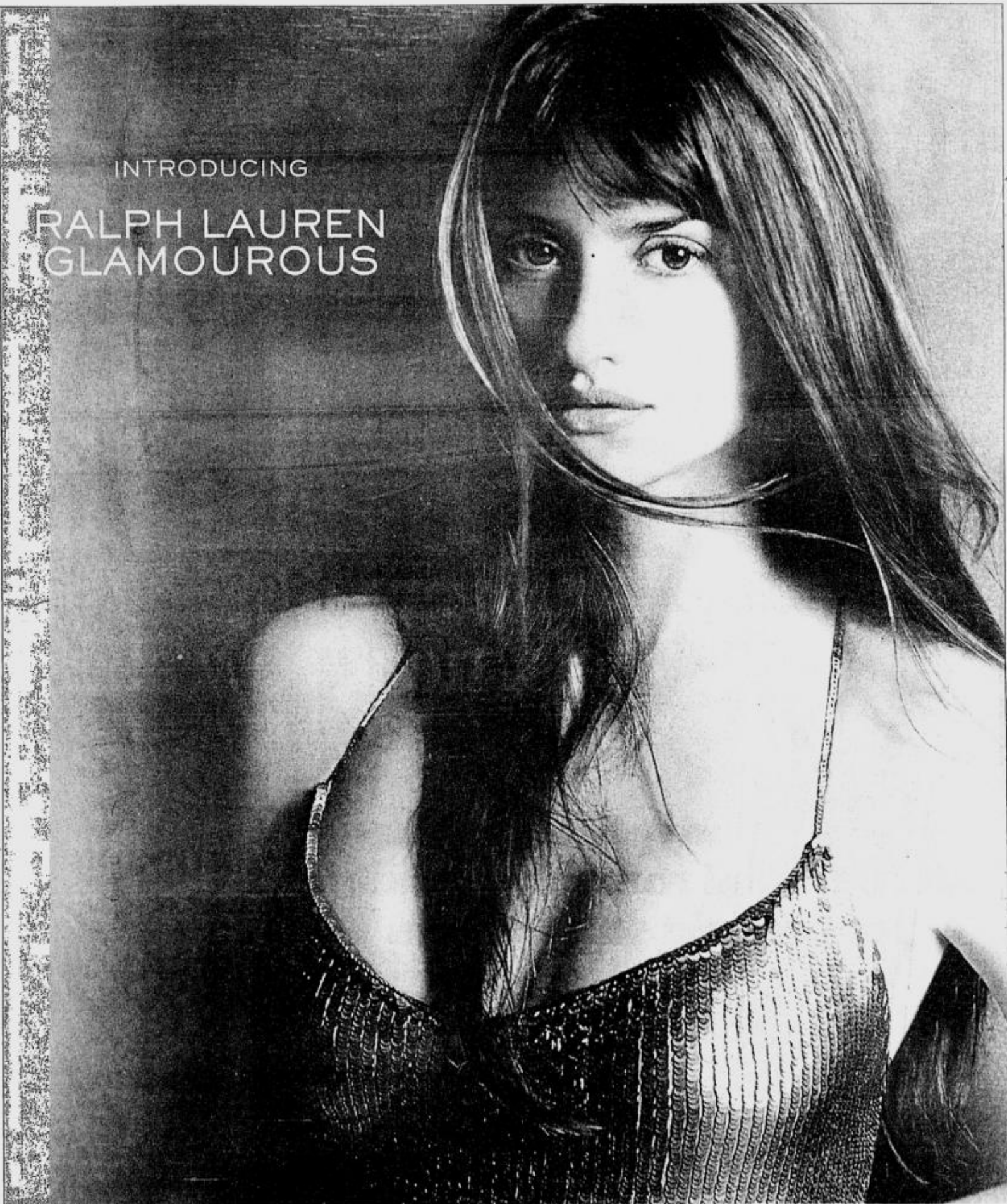
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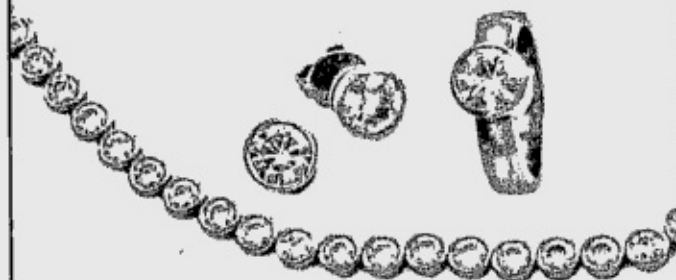


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Reyes gives gifts and receives more on his birthday

LIKE in previous years, businessman and civic leader Ricky Reyes celebrated his 50th birthday recently at the Philippine General Hospital's Cancer Institute (tel. 526-6953) with children afflicted with cancer.

"Secret," he says with a chuckle, when we pressed him to reveal his age. "Can you ask me something else?"

Reyes, with Presidential daughter Luli Arroyo and Mila Drilon, wife of the Senate president, distributed packs of vitamins, boxes of noodles, instant milk and bottles of dextrose. He was also able to solicit two wheelchairs from good friends for the patients' use. Patients, both young and old, were treated to several entertainment numbers on a makeshift stage.

"I'm just a facilitator here," says the self-effacing Reyes, affectionately called



BIRTHDAY boy Ricky Reyes celebrates his birthday at the Cancer Institute. A girl who shares Reyes' natal day blows the cake, while Presidential daughter Luli Arroyo looks on.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



LULI Arroyo and Mila Drilon, wife of Senate President Frank Drilon

The celebrator wishes for good health so he can continue helping the less privileged



PARTY time for the cancer-stricken patients and their survivors

"Mother" by friends. "I'm so happy that there are still many people with big hearts out there willing to help these children despite the hard times."

Each of the 23 managers of his beauty salon chain coughed up P1,000 for the Munting Paraiso fund. Several people, named and unnamed, gave donations in cash and in kind. A certain Zeny Tang, a cancer survivor, for instance, donated quite a sum. Part of the donations, managed by the institute, will be used to buy medicines

for the children's chemotherapy.

Reyes and his staff have become regular fixtures at the institute ever since he took its young patients under his wings, providing them with, among other things, a playroom called Munting Paraiso, which has a child psychologist and several caregivers.

And what's Mother's birthday wish? "To continue to be blessed with good health so I could continue to be of help to others."

Alex Y. Vergara

Companies are learning...

From page E1

Like Francisco, many employees embrace their company's social initiatives and see these as a means toward their own personal fulfillment.

J.B., a freelance graphic and layout artist, resigned recently from a lifestyle magazine he was working for because he felt that there was something lacking in the organization in terms of social commitment. "(Corporate social responsibility) greatly affects my perceptions and loyalty to my company. Had my company focused (on) contributing to national development by educating readers through enlightened articles rather than relying on flashy, sexy yet pointless photos for quick sales, I wouldn't be leaving it."

A study conducted by Oxford IPC Worldwide, a group of strategic management consultants, validates J.B.'s sentiments:

"One of the most obvious advantages an enterprise can achieve from corporate social responsibility is enhancement of the productivity of its human resources. Social responsibility may influence productivity. It also makes the firm more attractive to employees." Corporate social responsibility presents or-

ganizations, communities and employees a win-win proposition. It gives employees pride in their work, and strengthens the company's ties with the communities.

Practicing corporate social responsibility likewise gives employees a sense of empowerment and fulfillment. Although most people enter into the corporate world to fulfill material needs, the fact cannot be ignored that, like the individuals mentioned here, many crave for the kind of self-fulfillment that goes beyond completing projects and beating deadlines.

Like the Edsa rallies that made us proud as a nation, corporate social responsibility can be an avenue for revolutionizing the way we run our organizations. Executives will learn to look beyond figures and targets and the almighty Return on Investment, for something which may not be quantifiable, but one which lends business a human face and heart.

Venture for Fund Raising is a nonprofit organization that teaches the joy of giving, and provides consulting, public information, research and training assistance on fund-raising to other nonprofit organizations in the Philippines and Asia. E-mail info@venture-asia.org.



FAMILY REUNION

The Aves family reunion was held recently at the Aves Residence on Roosevelt Avenue, San Francisco Del Monte, QC. Seated from left: Rosy A. Tan Mercado, Lita P. Lacuna, Nonie A. Tan Basilio, Bert Basilio, Angeles W. Abes, SSS chair Nardy R. Abes, Inday Yulo Aves, Mary Sta. Romana Abes and Uring A. Tan Malonso; (standing from left) Romy A. Lacuna, Mira Aves and Lt. Col. Julian Malonso

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International Roaming is a service of Globe Handyphone which allows subscribers to call or be called on their Globe Handyphones even while abroad, as they use the networks of other countries' operators.

So remember, before you start packing everything else for your next trip abroad, make sure you pack your Globe Handyphone!

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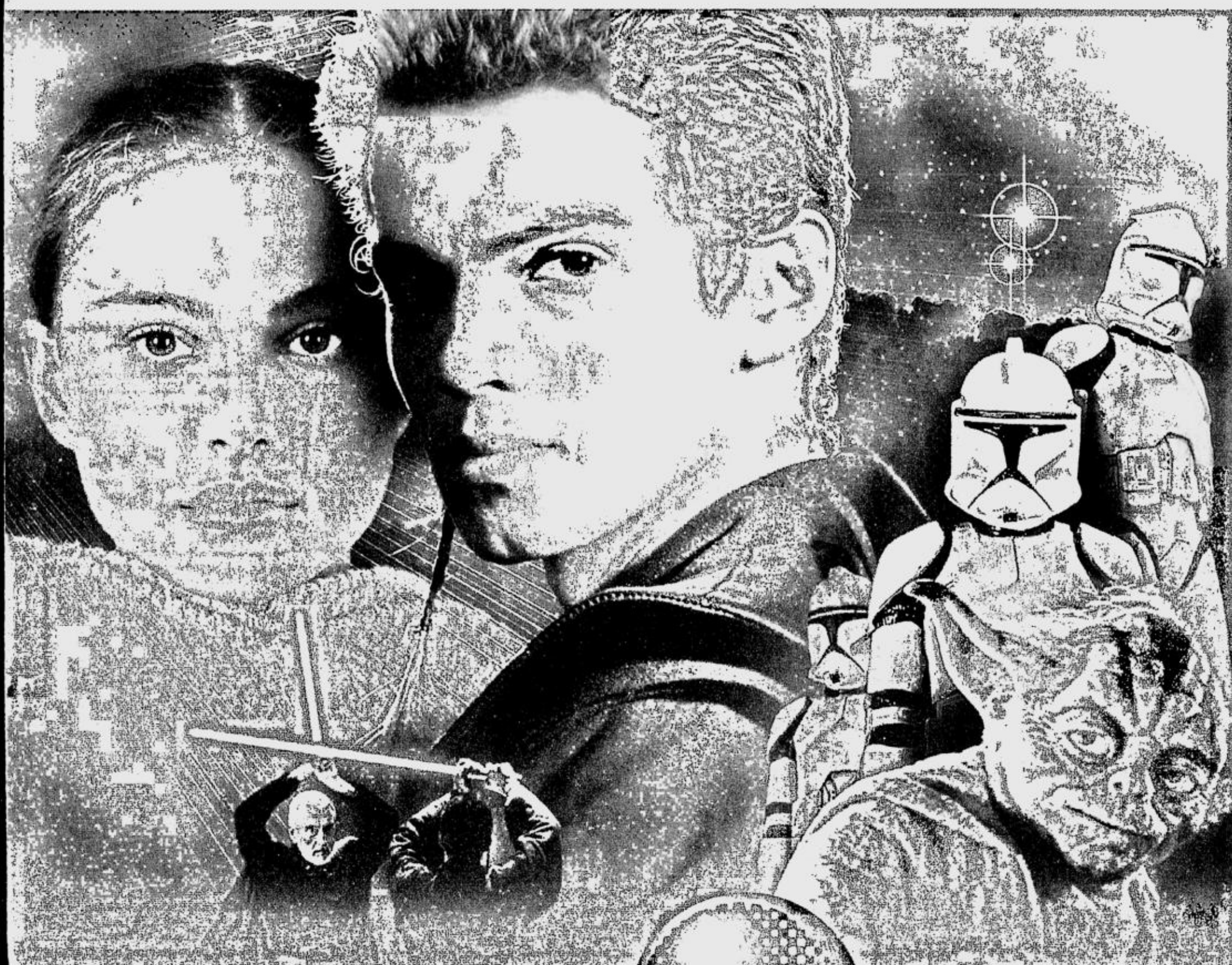
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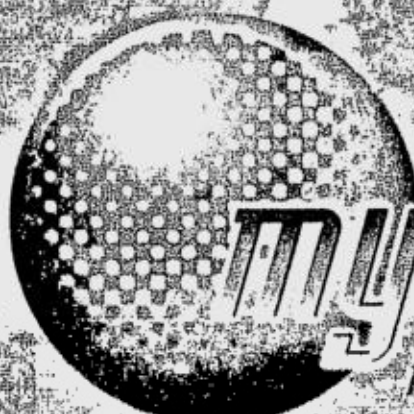
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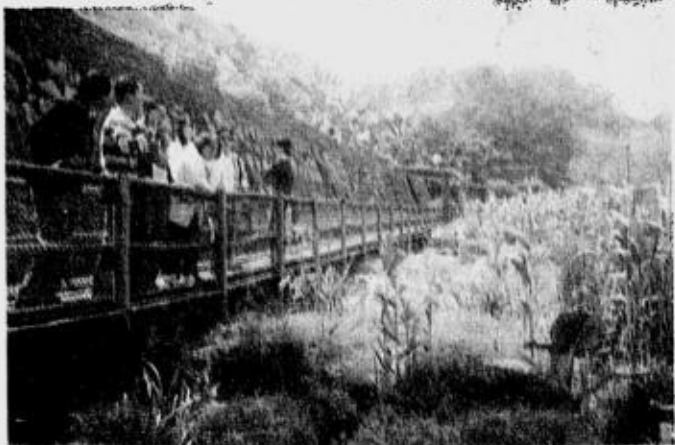
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Little-known HK garden heals and saves endangered living things

Text and photos by Ralph Diaz
Contributor

A LITTLE known farm and botanical garden beckoned our group on a recent visit to Hong Kong.

As we walked around Nathan Road, the shoppers "golden mile" with its rows and rows of shops and restaurants, we noticed an unusual restaurant displaying a pile of fresh river turtles, a Chinese delicacy. We were to learn later that the turtles had some links to the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden (KFBG), which we later visited.

At KFBG, we met Manab Chakraborty, executive director; Idy Wong, public education manager; and Hil Padilla (a short-term consultant from Manaoag, Pangasinan), who gave us a short orientation on the work done at 140-hectare farm and garden with a hilly topography ranging in altitude from 150-600 meters. The differing altitudes allowed the garden to host some 50 percent of the wild plant species in Hong Kong and Southern China.

The garden, we learned, often cared

for smuggled turtles, a Chinese delicacy supposedly for its anti-cancer properties, from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Bangladesh, which were confiscated by authorities. China's own river turtles were reportedly at risk of extinction because of the demand. The KFBG nursed the turtles back to health distributed them to zoos in the United States and United Kingdom. Recently, it received 10,000 smuggled turtles in one day.

The farm also cared for other injured animals like the rare White Bellied Sea Eagle. Only 10 pairs of this eagle reportedly still exist in the wild. We also saw a Saker Falcon, a Black Shouldered Kite and a tame Eastern Grass Owl. Also "recuperating" at the garden are an injured Long-Tail Macaque, a White-Cheeked Gibbon (whose loud and strange "songs" were being taped by a German expert) and a Barking Deer.

Most of the animals were smuggled into Hong Kong, as the city's huge harbor was a center for illegal trafficking in wild animals.

Wildlife medicine has advanced quite a lot at KFBG. In its impressive and modern animal hospital we saw a frightened Pygmy Loris (smuggled from Cambodia) suffering from a head wound, swollen left hand and loss of fur in the intensive care unit. A turtle on the surgical table was being X-rayed and anesthetized before operation.

At the Orchid Haven, Gloria Siu Lai-ping, senior conservation officer, said Hong Kong and Southern China had a thousand species of native orchids, many of them facing extinction. Very rare species, like the Paphiopedilum Mallipoense with very light green flower and the Paphiopedilum Purpuratum (Lady Slipper) were bought by private collectors for as much as \$3,500 each, equivalent to over a year's income of a farmer in Southern China. The orchids were aggressively uprooted from their natural habitat and traded illegally. Lai-ping said she aimed to restore the wild orchids to their natural habitat. To speed up the process, the orchids were mass propagated by using the tissue culture technique, in addition to the slower vegetative propagation technique.

Like the Raptor Sanctuary, it serves as a temporary holding site for confiscated regulated orchids pending prosecution of smugglers. It cooperates with HK's Agriculture and Fisheries Department regarding regulations of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

DISPLAY of CITES' regulated rare orchids



A RARE Lady Slipper orchid

(CITES).

Among the many other features of KFBG are the natural wastewater treatment system, organic farming and the use of solar energy. Indigenous wetland plants found in the waterways of Hong Kong have been collected. Experiments are being conducted to determine their capability to clean wastewater (as well as their use as animal feed). The biological cleansing process combines the wetland plants with a network of microorganisms and colonizing fauna, also found in Hong Kong's waterways.

Dirty water from pigpens and chicken coops is brought by large pipes to a series of ponds with a variety of wetland plants, wetland fauna (such as frogs) and microorganisms. Vegetables grow in the last pond. After passing through the vegetable pond, the clean water is released into the nearby stream. The approach was found to provide a higher standard of water purification.

KFBG said water treatment system could be improved by processing animal waste into biogas first. And the cleansed water should be accumulated in a fishpond before released into the stream. Live fish will also test water purity.

Organic farming at KFBG includes vegetables, flowers and fruit trees. No commercial fertilizer or pesticides are used and the control of harmful bugs involves the use of pest-eating insects and herbs. Plant refuse is composted and used as fertilizer for fruit trees and vegetables.

KFBG has a long-term private funding source (the Peninsula Group of Co.) and an annual budget of \$10 million. With this budget, seedlings of native trees are mass-produced and distributed to schools with reforestation projects. An environmental education program reaches over 100,000 visitors (mainly school children) each year. Funds are also available for exhibitions on nature conservation and sustainable agriculture systems as well as to network with other nature conservation groups.

KFBG did not start as a nature conservation program. It started as the Kadoorie Agricultural Aid Association (KAAA) in 1951, helping migrants from mainland China. Over 312,000 persons in 1,218 nearby villages were assisted by the KAAA. The work continued until the early 1990s.



SCHOOLCHILDREN'S tour



A TAME Eastern Grass Owl



THE VISITING group, from left, Bani and Bessie Aguirre, Nel and Vic Ramos, Elsie Diaz, and the author with Manab Chakraborty (KFBG executive director)

New mall radiates the best of Pampanga

ROBINSONS Land Corp.'s (RLC) 10th shopping mall, Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, tries to incorporate Pampanga's vast topography into the design of the mall.

Pampanga's colorful Christmas lantern, the rice fields that abound in the area and the breathtaking sight of Mount Arayat have been immortalized in the mall's exterior and interior designs. The design is a departure from the usual layouts commonly used in shopping mall developments. High ceilings, the three atriums, the rich and vibrant colors, the interesting floor pattern designs are unique features that set the mall apart. The result is a sprawling two-level shopping mall with lots of space and movement.

According to Minda Carpio, vice president for lease, aside from the design, pedestrian and vehicular traffic were also considered. Five entrance and exit points are strategically located in the front and at the back. "These entrances provide easy access to the mall

and to the anchor tenants of the mall—Big R Supercenter at the Arayat Gate, Robinsons Department Store at the Robinsons Gate and the Night Life area at the Candaba Gate. The Mountain Gate is connected to a covered walk that stretches from the mall's entrance to Gapan Olongapo Road near the San Fernando Exit, while the Seaport Gate is a convenient access for those customers who parked at the back of the mall," Carpio says.

The local folks' passion for shopping and dining were also considered in planning the tenant mix of the mall. "Big R Supercenter is the leading hypermarket in the area that offers a no-membership policy. Shoppers can enjoy their extended store hours from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Aside from its complete grocery section, Big R also carries an extensive fresh produce section and ready-to-eat take-out counters that serve popular Kapampangan fare," Carpio says.

Complementing the retail format of Big R is Robinsons Department Store (RDS) situated at the first and second levels of the mall.



FOUNTAIN changes the rhythm of the place.

"RDS is the fashionable and affordable department store for the young, value-seeking female. The department store carries value-for-money ladies' wear, shoes, cosmetics, handbag, children's apparel and other popular brands and categories," Carpio says.

The country's top retailers have opened branches at Robinsons Starmills. They include Marks &

Spencer, Bench, Human and Dimensions, Guess, Baby Guess and Guess Kids, Giordano, Hang Ten, Sari-Sari, Kamiseta, Penshoppe, Mossino, Dickies, Levi's, Whoops, F&H, Genevieve Gozum, Royal Sporting House, Iti Shoes, Bayo, Rusty Lopez, Subu, Mendrez, Home Options, The 99 Peso Store, Planet Sports, Kidz Station, Characters Unlimited, Mercury Drug,



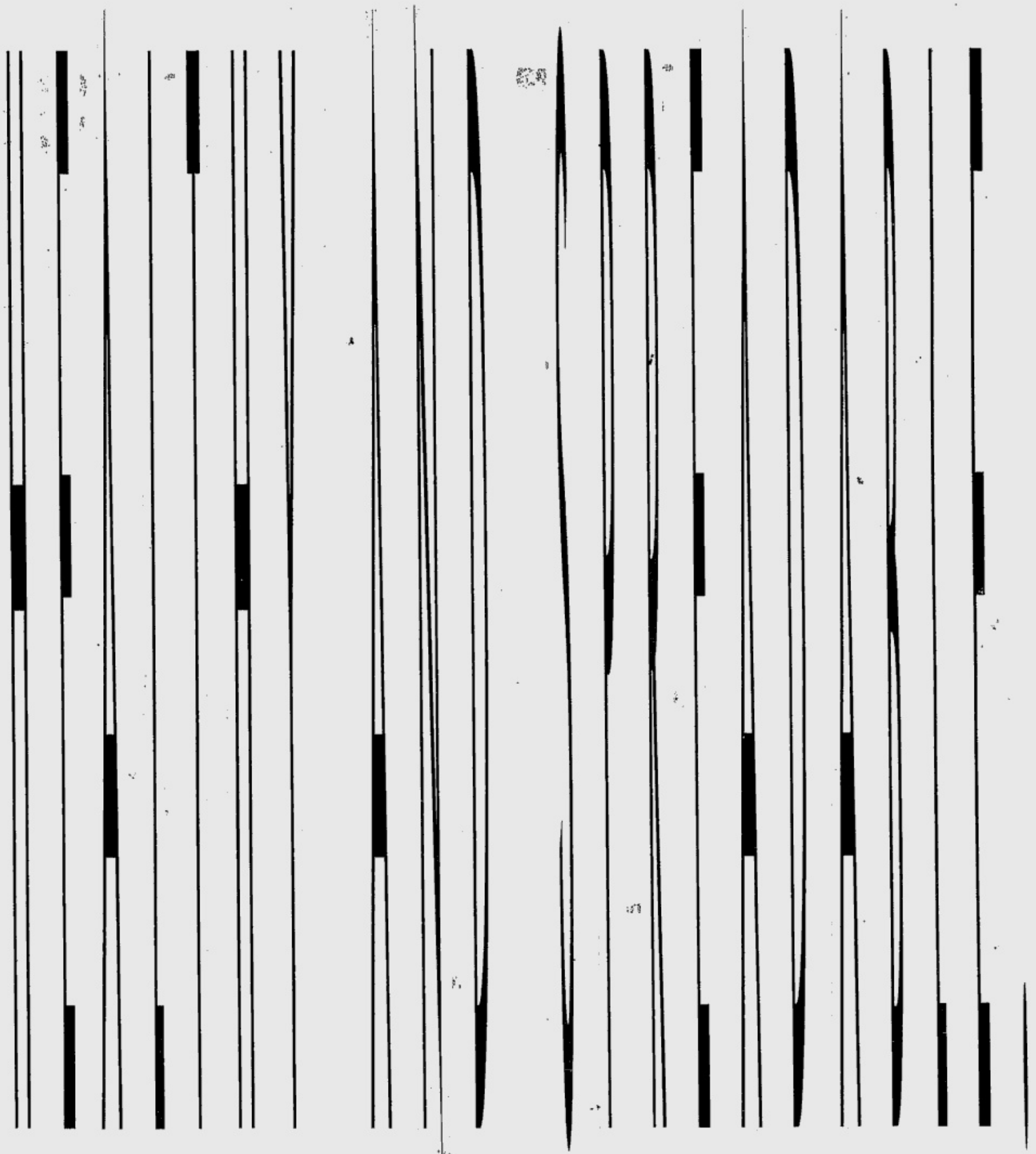
MAJOR TENANT. Big R Supercenter

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The fast-food center, Robinsons Movieworld and Dream Zone are located at the second level. "We are very happy that a lot of local fast-food operators have joined us. Homegrown talents like Aling Luring's Sisig, Luring's Barbecue, Pamfiesta, King Dimsum are now enjoying brisk business," Carpio

says. Popular fast-food and restaurant chains Jollibee, Pizza Hut, Goldilocks, Old Manila, Pancake House, Racks, Cabalen, Gerry's Grill, Max Fried Chicken, Kitara, Subway and Taters are now open at the mall. Bakeline Café, Fressan Bakeshop and Sticks are likewise open.

Robinsons Movieworld is a Cineplex that houses six state-of-the-art cinemas equipped with the latest sound and projection technology. One cinema has the standard THX format.



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Sunday LIFESTYLE



13



Racelis-Deang nuptial

p.F7

Dream weddings for any budget

JUNE brides can get inspiration and great ideas from Powerbooks' Bridal Festival this May. Join a free wedding talk, "Dream Weddings for the Modern Filipina," on May 18, 2-4 p.m., at Powerbooks Arnaiz, Makati. Listen to Bride and Home's Apples Aberin-Sadhvani and Andrea Passion-Flores as they share tips and secrets on putting together a dream wedding to fit any budget and more. Open to all, registration for the event will start at 1 p.m. The first 20 registrants of the day will receive a special gift pack courtesy of Bride and Home.

A special bridal furniture display by Trouseau will also be held at Powerbooks Arnaiz from May 10-29, with design ideas from the newest interior design books that you can recreate in your new home. Call Powerbooks customer service at 844-4455 or e-mail ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.

Fair supplies wedding essentials

PHILTRADE Exhibits brings to the mall select wedding suppliers as it hosts "Wedding Essentials" from May 13-26, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Padre Faura Atrium, Robinsons Place Manila. The wedding fair promises to give engaged couples a chance to meet first-class suppliers and coordinators to help them prepare for their big day.

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President Arroyo to crown Our Lady of the Abandoned in Marikina church

VERY few people know that there is an image of Our Lady of the Abandoned enshrined in a church in Marikina. Most people only know the image that's enshrined in Sta. Ana Church. I first saw the one in Marikina when my friends and I attended a Marian exhibit and Mass on Nov. 26, 2001.

On her feast day on May 12, Our Lady of the Abandoned will be honored with a High Mass at 8 a.m. to be officiated by Bishop Tom Yalung and an Episcopal coronation. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo will crown the Virgin.

Bishop Socrates Villegas will deliver the homily. Msgr. Arnel Lagarejos, the parish priest, will lead parishioners in praising the Lord for having given them Our Lady of the Abandoned as patroness.

An image made by angels

Legend reveals that the original image of the Blessed Virgin under this title originated in Valencia, Spain. It is said that when the parish priest announced that the church needed an image of its patroness, three men came knocking on the church door and asked that they would do the task.

For several days, the men closeted themselves inside a room and never went out. Even the food left outside the door remained untouched. And then there would be singing heard from inside the room as if angels were singing there.

One day, the singing stopped and when the parish priest and some members of the church opened the door, the men were gone. But in the middle of the room stood a most beautiful image of the Virgin Mary. The image was carried in a procession to the main altar and enshrined there. Since then, miracles began to happen in the town.

The devotion to Our Lady of the Abandoned or Nuestra Señora de los Desamparados was brought to the Philippines by the Franciscans. Marikina's parish priest, Monsignor Arnel is a Marian devotee.

It seems that wherever he is assigned as parish priest, it is always a church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. And almost always he finds himself restoring the church.

Monsignor Arnel calls the Virgin "Mahal na Ina ng mga Walang Mag-aampon." This means people sleeping in the streets—adults and children; orphans, the elderly left by their families to fend for themselves; even the mentally unbalanced and the brokenhearted.

Our Lady takes care of them and sees to it that no harm will befall them. This fiesta's *hermano*

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang



mayores Lito and Gene de Guzman are devotees; so is Perlita Lu, who is the *hermana mayor*. Marikina Mayor Marides Fernando and Rep. Del de Guzman are also devoted to the Virgin and they will attend the fiesta.

Fiesta activities

As early as 6 a.m., there will be a *sunduan* of the *hermanos* headed by Bro. Juanito Gomez. After the Mass, there will be "agape" at 9 a.m. with Bro. Angelito de la Paz as chair. The people will go back to the church for the procession at 6 p.m. with Bro. Carlito Ocampo as chair.

Winners of the singing competition will be awarded at the church quadrangle. Bro. Delfin Riofrio is the chair. To highlight the event, a fireworks display will lit up the sky. Bro. Carlito de Leon is in-charge.

"Ina" to visit Metro Manila

The pilgrim image of "Ina" (the name given by devotees of Our Lady of Peñafrancia) will be flown to Manila from Naga on May 11. She will be brought straight to the Parish of Our Lady of the Airways.

At 2 p.m., she'll be brought to Glorietta 4 for the Mass at 5:30 p.m. An altar will be set up near Mercury Drug. Before the last blessing, a "Flores de Mayo" composed of young children will offer flowers while the "Himno" is sung.

The sked is as follows: May 12, 8 a.m. Mass at the Infant Jesus Parish in South Admiral Village, Parañaque; May 12, 10:30 a.m., Glorietta 4 (Mother's Day Mass); May 13, 12 nn Mass at Greenbelt Chapel until May 14. "Ina" will be brought to the Edsa Shrine on May 14 for the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

Peñafrancia photo exhibit

An exhibit of "Ina and the Bikol People: A Journey of Faith" opened last Friday at the Filipinas Heritage Library along Makati Avenue corner Ayala Avenue.

Sponsored by Archbishop Leonardo Z. Legaspi, the exhibit features photos taken by at least 10 photographers who travelled all over Bicol to catch the phenomenal devotion of the Bicolanos to Our Lady of Peñafrancia and feature the people's rich cultural heritage

and the famous "traslacion" when the Virgin is brought from the Basilica to the Cathedral for the nine-day novena before the fiesta. Exhibit ends May 30.

The photos will be integrated in a coffee-table book that is now being prepared by Fr. Wilmer Tria.

Festival of Mothers

As part of the preparation for the World Meeting of Families (Manila 2003), to which John Paul II is expected, the Festival of Mothers will take place on May 12 at La Salle Greenhills. The Holy Mass at 8:45 a.m. will be celebrated by Bishop Soc Villegas whose homily will focus on motherhood and the Christian role of women. Keynote address will be given by Esther Esteban who will speak on the "Gift of Motherhood."

"How Mary Would Have Lived Today" will close the day's events and will talk about "empowerment."

Those interested to attend, please call the Secretariat of the Central Committee preparing the festival at 525-9126 or telefax 525-6882.

Sr. Briege McKenna here

The healing nun Sr. Briege McKenna, OSC, and Fr. Kevin Scallion, CM will hold a conference for families on May 9-11 at the SVD Chapel in Tagaytay City.

The theme is "The Family: A Call to Wholeness." Fr. Barnery McGucken, SJ from Ireland will speak on the devotion to the Sacred Heart as a means to heal alcoholics and drug addicts.

On May 12, Sister Briege will give a talk at the PICC at 9 a.m. Mass will be at 11 a.m. Before that there will be a Eucharistic Healing Service with Sister Briege interceding.

Padre Pio canonization

Travel agencies are presently preparing itineraries before and after the canonization of Padre Pio in Rome on June 16. According to World's Wonders, the date of departure is on June 13, going first to Assisi, where Mass will be celebrated on May 14 at the Santa Maria Degli de Angeli.

Next stop is the Portiuncula, the tiny chapel which St. Francis built himself.

The rest of the itinerary includes Montefalco, then to Rome where the canonization will take place.

From Rome, the pilgrims will go to Monte Sant Angelo, where St. Michael appeared in a cave; San Giovanni, where Padre Pio lived for 50 years as a Capuchin at the Monastery of Our Lady of Grace.



OUR Lady of the Abandoned patroness of Marikina



MSGR. Arnel Lagarejos, parish priest of Marikina

From San Giovanni, the pilgrims will go to Lanciano, where the "Miracle of the Eucharist" took place and then to Loreto, where the house of Mary can be found inside the church.

Those who wish to join the trip to Medjugorje after Rome can do so. Spiritual chaplain is Fr. Roy Rosales. The first 25 passengers will be given a prayer with a third class relic of Padre Pio. Those interested can call 726-6162 or 718-3253, or Annie Lukban at 939-6526.

Padre Pio Healing Mass

Padre Pio Healing Mass will take place at the Manila Seedling Bank Worship Hall today at 6 p.m.

Mass for Joe Clemente

Family and friends of Jose Clemente Jr., owner of Rajah Tours, will mark his first death anniversary today at 8:30 a.m. at the Heritage Park in Fort Bonifacio. When he was alive, Joe was active in promoting the tourism industry.



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Kaya magkaiba man

ang gusto,

lahat ay siguradong

masaya.

Home is where the  is. Selecta



Ordeal of prepaid card users

JUST when veteran journalist Joe Burgos Jr. decided to buy a P500 prepaid card for his cellular phone, the service provider announced the next day to its customers that starting May 1, it would stop serving a wide range of residential and business areas in QC. We Forum, which Burgos publishes, has its office in the area.

In addition to his aggravations, the prepaid card was not compatible with the particular model of his phone.

Can he expect a refund for the phone card he never got to use? Why are phone card outlets still selling these no-longer-negotiable cards? When Burgos called up the customer care service support of the company, the operator sounded dumbfounded and was not even aware of the company's notice to its subscribers.

Speaking of prepaid cards, Internet users have their own ordeal to speak of. Their complaints range from exasperating dial-up connection to poor or inefficient technical support and getting cut-off in the middle of surfing or writing e-mail messages.

Cecile Dinglasan of the Federation of Cutflower and Ornamental Growers of the Phils. griped, "I bought a P200 Quick Web card to

find out the advantages this satellite-powered technology offered over Rebel Internet which I previously used with satisfaction.

"To sum it up, I was dismayed. For two days now, connection has failed for some reason or another, and dial-up line is busy even at 2 a.m. There are restrictions printed in the card; expires 60 days after use, nonrefundable, nonreplaceable. Getting customer care assistance is also practically nil."

Infocom loses loyal customer

WE received this letter several weeks ago from R. Amorado of ronnie@mail.dvo.info.com.ph, Davao City, a self-confessed loyal subscriber of Gatesway since 1997 to the day it was bought by Infocom. Disgruntled by a recent promotional program by the company, he swore that the following letter would be his last from that address. Among other reasons he cited, he resented Infocom's threat that his Internet dial-up subscription would be cut off if he did not join the promotional offer called Migration Program.

"I was informed that my current plan of P880 for 30 hours' use would be increased to P990. I wouldn't mind the raise for the

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron



following reason. I am still experiencing technical problems such as slowdowns and downtimes that cause interruptions in the Internet and e-mail dial-up service. Furthermore, there's only one telephone number for technical assistance which, at peak hours, gets clogged up.

"The migration program promo, supposed to run from December 2001 to March 2002, was intended to entice subscribers to avail of new Internet services that includes corresponding free Internet hours. What I cannot accept is the idea of inviting subscribers to join the migration program, and if they refused, they were informed that their account would be cut off."

Disputed Internet bill

WE hope customer Carmelito T. of ctatlongari@mydestiny.net finally settled his disputed bill from Compass Inc. for P18,628 plus. He wrote to us last March, but for some unavoidable reasons we

Complaints range from exasperating dial-up connection to inefficient technical support and getting cut-off in the middle of surfing

could not print his complaint.

He wrote: "My bill for February included charges amounting to P8,851.48 for 149,9467 hours of Internet usage that I did not make. I immediately complained and disputed the erroneous charges. For several months, I have tried to have the wrong charges withdrawn from my statement of account to no avail.

"I am disputing this based on the following reasons: my password was hacked and used by unauthorized persons. The provider failed to install a cryptographically authenticated password registration system, a deterrent to

password theft. The provider failed to install a call-back feature (wherein a subscriber can preset a telephone number that an ISP will use to call back the user). It reduces risk of unauthorized use of subscriber's account. My history of use will prove that I had never spent so much time on the Internet."

Tatlonghari's bill included accrued interest, penalty, collection charges and other fees.

Condo tax explanation

Eduardo A. Manahan, senior property manager of One Burgundy Plaza at Loyola Heights, explains fees charged to condominium unit occupants (this column, 04/21).

"We would like to set the record straight that the real estate tax (Ret) on building improvement for One Burgundy Plaza is covered by Tax Declaration No. D-056-06299, which is different from the Ret paid by owner for their unit. Improvement consists of common areas (stairs and hallways, transformer vault room, swimming pool, roof deck, floor seismic provision, floor finish).

"The special assessment fee for building improvement is paid to the condominium association, which in turn remits payment to the Quezon City treasurer's office after collecting the individual unit

owner's share of assessment. The Ret on building improvement is retroactive to the year when the QC assessor's office issued the tax declaration. The special assessment real estate tax on building improvement is not intended for use and maintenance of elevators, generator sets, fire exit, etc., but will be paid to the assessor's office as provided for by Rule XXXI of Republic Act 7160, Local Government Code of 1991, and RA 4726 known as Condominium Act."

DOTC Hotlines for complaints

Collis and Violy Davis wrote: "We just tried DOTC Hotline 7980, supposedly for complaints about abusive taxi drivers (as mentioned in consumer column), but there is no ringing tone much less, an answer. Are we missing something in terms of properly dialing this number? Please give us explicit directions on how to dial this number. It looks like a non-regular number. We tried it with 02."

We tried the number and it didn't work. Here's the latest DOTC complaints and information hotline given to us by the DOTC commissioner's office: 925-7194 and 426-2485.

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph or mariettagiron@hotmail.com.

Calling a Spade a Spade

MIX at Greenbelt in Ayala Center will launch its Kate Spade lines of shoes and bags at 6:30 p.m. on May 9.

B&B Italia with furniture by Antonio Chiffero and Gaetano Pesche and Citimex furniture by Charles Eames, George Nelson and Verner Pantone will lend a hand in the re-creation of the lifestyle that is Kate Spade. Page One will provide books. Feast your eyes on paintings by Emilio Aguilar Cruz and lights by Flos by Jasper Morrison, Philippe Starck and Achilles Castiglione.

Kate Spade began designing snappy and inexpensive handbags in 1993 and now her collections are sold at Bergdorf Goodman, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue, Barney's NY, Harvey Nichols in London and in many stores in Japan.

Her line of accessories now includes footwear, ranging from slingbacks and sandals to mules and flats. Call 893-3512/893-3517.

What Asia's youth think

TWELVE young Asians selected as ambassadors of the Speak Your Mind campaign will fly to New York to present an Asian Youth Charter to United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan on May 7 at the UN Headquarters.

As part of the Speak Your Mind campaign jointly organized by United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), MTV Networks Asia and Levi's, young Asians were invited to write their views on "how they would make the world a better place for young people." The views have been consolidated into the Speak Your Mind Asian Youth Charter to be presented to Annan.

The campaign aimed to empower the youth in Asia by helping them express their views on things that were important and close to their hearts. Their opinions were broadcast to more than 150 million households across the continent on MTV Asia's various channels and on the Internet.

The youth ambassadors come from China, including Hong Kong and Taiwan, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore and Thailand.

John Anderson, president, Levi Strauss Asia Pacific Division Pte Ltd., said the company was very honored to be part of the project that would help shape the future for youths in Asia.

Over 22,000 entries were received from all countries. Twelve were chosen by the panel of judges consisting of Emily Booker and Robert Tyabji of Unicef, David Flack and John Leung of MTV Networks Asia, and Kim Lim and VRM Raju of Levi Strauss Asia Pacific Division Pte. Ltd. The judges considered content, understanding of child rights' issues, and expression. They looked for a passionate commitment to social and community issues.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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ARIEL	GOTHE	ATTENTION	
PET	LESS	BOA	QUAKE
MOTT	HEAVEN	SUMNER	
RUNAWAY	PARROT	STEM	
ERAT	ARLEN	CITYSELF	
EGRET	CURES	PLANS	VEE
LEA	EARLY	POINT	GINA
SEMI	SPASM	DECOR	
TINY	BRITISH	PARENT	
BERRA	ODETS	LIFT	
ALOE	PEROT	PEACE	VOW
RIO	DARYL	ARIAS	REEVE
SAPLING	OMITS	MRED	
INTO	TWOPHYSICIANS		
SALVOS	MONKEY	WAIL	
ANNAIS	DAS	TENT	AFT
FIND	ARICH	SPOUSE	RARER
ETC	UTAH	ARAFAT	UNITE
RAE	RENO	MOTORS	STEAK

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Get a beauty guide and your personalized skin care advice from L'Oréal's Beauty Experts from April 13 to May 15 at the following L'Oréal counters:

Watsons in all SM Dept. Stores and Malls • Robinsons Department Store Galleria, Ermita • Landmark Makati



Michele Reis - Artist

GUEVARRA-VILLANUEVA

Sharon Villanueva, daughter of engineer George and Nilda Villanueva, exchanged marriage vows with Michael D. Guevarra, son of Alfonso and Marcela Guevarra, on April 14 at Mary the Queen Parish Church, Greenhills, San Juan.

Designer Angelo Estera made a strapless gown in duchess silk for the bride. It features a handmade pale pink organdy rosettes on the bodice sprinkled with faux pearls and flat crystal beads. The veil was made of soft flowing French illusion tulle held in place by a crystal tiara. Entourage and sponsors were in summer hues of green and pink, also created and executed by Estera.

Dinner reception followed at the Manila Galleria Suites.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

ASUNCION-PIENCENAVES

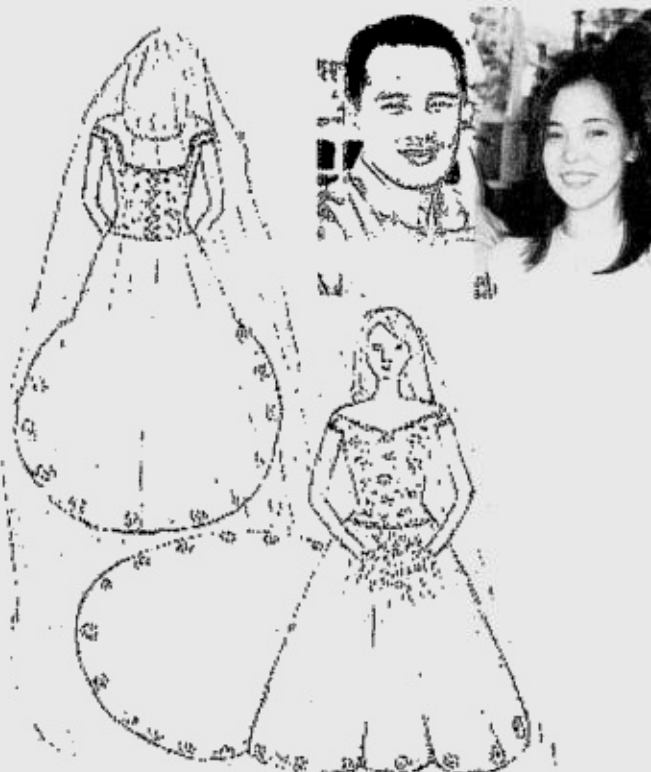
John Asuncion, son of Anthony and Engrid (nee Wong) Asuncion, wed Carmen Amparo Piencenaves, daughter of Ferdinand and Edna (nee Ferrer) Piencenaves, on Feb. 2 at St. Joseph Cathedral, Butuan City. Reception followed at Inland Resort Convention Center. Bride and groom are both graduates of the Ateneo de Manila University.



GERONIMO-MUNLAWIN

Clara Ivy Munlawin, youngest daughter of Rey and Jocelyn Munlawin, will marry Teh Geronimo, youngest son of Florencio and Estefania Geronimo, on May 7 at San Agustin Church. Reception will follow at Father Blanco's Garden, Intramuros.

The bride will wear a pure white duchess satin off-shoulder princess-cut gown embellished with multicolored glass and cut and caviar beads, complemented by a pink veil. Couturier Eddie Baddeo designed and executed the entourage. The bride's hair and makeup will be done by Eric Maningat.



GARACHICO-ADRIANO

Jojo, son of Sonia Hong vda. de Garachico, will exchange vows with Thess, daughter of Mr. and Ms Roberto Adriano Sr., on May 18 at St. Augustine Parish Church, Baliuag, Bulacan. Lunch will follow at Waterwood Park.

The bride will be wearing an off-shoulder royal shantung gown with beaded lace on top designed by her friend Joy Bufete. Pearls and beads in scallops are added to the hemline.



SANGALANG-GACILO

Mai Gacilo, daughter of Necitas Gacilo and the late Cayetano Gacilo, wed Essen Sangalang, son of Andres and Corcordia Sangalang, on April 27 at the Archbishop's Palace, Mandaluyong. The bride wore a Jontie and Nicky Martinez creation in ivory satin and iridescent organza, embroidered with blossoms and intertwining vines.



NORGREN-MANALASTAS

William Norgren of Oakland, California will wed Mae Manalastas from Marulas, Caloocan City, tomorrow, at Iglesia ni Cristo Temple Central, QC. Reception will follow at the Fernwoods, QC. Minister Jun Magtoto will officiate the ceremonies. The couple will spend their honeymoon in Bali, Indonesia and return to the United States. They will reside in Alameda, California, located near San Francisco.

Kayo ang mga nagwagi sa

Partyang Pangarap
EQ ang Hanga
THE RAFFLE PROMO

North Luzon

- Carolyn Buligen
164 Km 9 La Trinidad, Benguet
- Romeo S. Satorre
051 Rizal Street, Brgy. Calocan, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija
- Airene De Vera
107 Sanitary Camp Yop St., South Transville, Baguio City
- Romina T. Magalong
90 Quinto Alley, Lower Engineers Hill, Baguio City
- Michael F. Dela Cruz
37 Parok I Lower Victoria Village, Naguilan Rd., Baguio City
- Lily Garcia
203 Magayay Ayusan Looker Prop., Baguio City
- Evelyn E. Delos Santos
80 Lower Cabinet Hill, Baguio City
- Yolanda P. Orodio
112 PNR Site, Dagupan City
- Veronica Doctolero
42 Lower Brookside, Baguio City
- Marilou M. Tama-do
12 Parok 17 Irian, Baguio City

South Luzon

- Carolyn D. Camama
027 Galen Subd. Gahak, Kaurit, Cavite
- Elseda C. Ramos
Halong Lupa City, Batangas
- Ma. Cecilia B. Saludo
Blk 23 Lt 47 Kula Vill Subd., Waves 3, Rosario, Cavite
- Marites P. De Silva
A. Mabini St., Poblacion Padre Garcia, Batangas
- Amalia Esplago
Blk 85 Lot 10 Brgy. San Estaban Dasmariñas, Cavite A-1
- Joan Tan
Blk 125 Lot 6 Brgy. Sta Lucia, Dasmariñas, Cavite
- Vivian R. Cunanan
15 Rodriguez St., Sanaya, Quezon
- Irene T. Opeña
Ph 3 Blk 103 Lt 10 Palisperan Dasmariñas, Cavite
- Belen R. Osario
Blk 16 Lot 14 Phase 1 Angeles St., City Homes Subd., Brgy. Sampaloc 4, Dasmariñas, Cavite
- Jean Mae Darlyn Banate
985 San Antonio I, Navoleta, Cavite

Mindanao

- Alli & Elida De la Torre
279 Mayen St., Central Park Subd., Bangkal, Davao City
- Doris Uy
102 Cordillera St., Central Park, Bangkal, Davao City
- Ruby Eviota
PHS-5 Meandflower St., El Rio Vista Vill., Bajada, Davao City
- Nestor D. Rojas
Blk 13, Lot 8 Aquarius St., Megahights Subd., Cagayan de Oro City 9000
- Fausto Certifico
c/o Nara's Bakery, Zone 1, Country Homes, Cabanatuan, Davao City
- Mary Grace Guantero
Purak Victoria Pelayo, Brgy. Centro, R. Castillo St., Agdao, Davao City
- Janet Acquadian
1062 Blk 01, Brgy., 21-C Papi Blvd., Davao City
- Dulce Alcobier
Blk 4 Lot 5, Vergara Homes T. Ipanan, Cagayan de Oro
- Darwesa Daud
10 Brgy 31-D, Papi Blvd., Davao City
- Perla S. Peralta
Blk 3 Lot 2 Sunnyside Subd., Ulas, Davao City

Visayas

- Michelle P. Santos
Nanac Homes, Tabunak, Talisay, Cebu
- Flor Karen Emiliana Tampus
178 PG Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
- Lorena Z. Rabanes
30 San Miguel St., Cebu City
- Rebecca P. Comahig
56-B San Miguel St., Cebu City
- Lourdes Aquino
91-12 Larcia Lanes, Cebu City
- Olivia Servande
2454 Inayagan, Mago, Cebu City
- Jennyvi L. Reynes
383-1 V. Rama Ave., Guadalupe, Cebu City
- Mary Jasminjen G. Go
1098 V. Rama Ave., Cabajar, Guadalupe, Cebu City
- Marylou D. Malinao
Sillo Cananai, Brgy. Lorego, San Miguel
- Jocyleen Urbina
68 San Miguel St., Cebu City

Congratulations to our first 50 WINNERS of Jolly Kiddie Parties!

150 Jolly Kiddie Parties pa ang maaaring mapanahunan, Hanggang June 15, 2002 pa ang promo period, so keep sending your entries! Baka ang iyong baby ang susunod na mananalo ng Jolly Kiddie Party from Jollibee!



Milestones



WONG DEBUT

Heidi Lou Wong, daughter of Mr. and Ms. **Louie Wong**, celebrated her 18th birthday on April 13 at the Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Manila. Designer **Angelo Estera** designed two gowns for the debutante. One was a pink, off-shoulder Italian satin with a long train embellished with hand-embroidered lilac and pink flowers on the bodice down to the hemline, and encrusted with pale pink seed beads and flat crystals. It was complemented by flower tiaras made of crystals and stones. The other gown was lilac satin. The dinner dance was directed and choreographed by **Roman Ponciano**.



SANGALANG DEBUT

Levie May M. Sangalang, daughter of **Severino** and **Amelia Sangalang**, celebrates her 18th birthday today at the Villa Carolina I, Muntinlupa City. Levie is an incoming sophomore at St. Scholastica's College Manila taking up Bachelor of Science in Commerce.



JARAMILLO DEBUT

Monique Mathay Jaramillo, youngest daughter of **Tony** and **Chiquie Jaramillo**, celebrated her 18th birthday recently at Wack-Wack Golf Club, Mandaluyong City.



AGARPAO-FIGUEROA

Arlene, daughter of **Manuel A. Figueroa** and **Merlinda H. Figueroa**, will exchange "I dos" with **Andy**, son of **Luisa vda. de Agarpao**, on May 25 at the Malate Church. Dinner reception follows at the Executive Plaza Hotel, Mabini. Wedding coordinator is **Tita Pat** of WCPR & Information Resources.



LIBUNAO-AMBUBUYOG

Maria Francis U. Ambubuyog will marry **Augustine Louie L. Libunao Jr.** on May 11 at the Good Shepherd Parish, Fairview Park, QC. The groom is the son of **Agustin** and **Lourdita Libunao**, while the bride is the daughter of **Rudy** and **Gloria Ambubuyog**.

Marilao club muse crowned May 8

TWENTY-YEAR-OLD Nifa Paula Dayrit Santos, this year's club sweetheart of the Marilao Social Circle, will be crowned during glittering ceremonies on May 8 at the Constantino Sports Complex in Marilao, Bulacan.

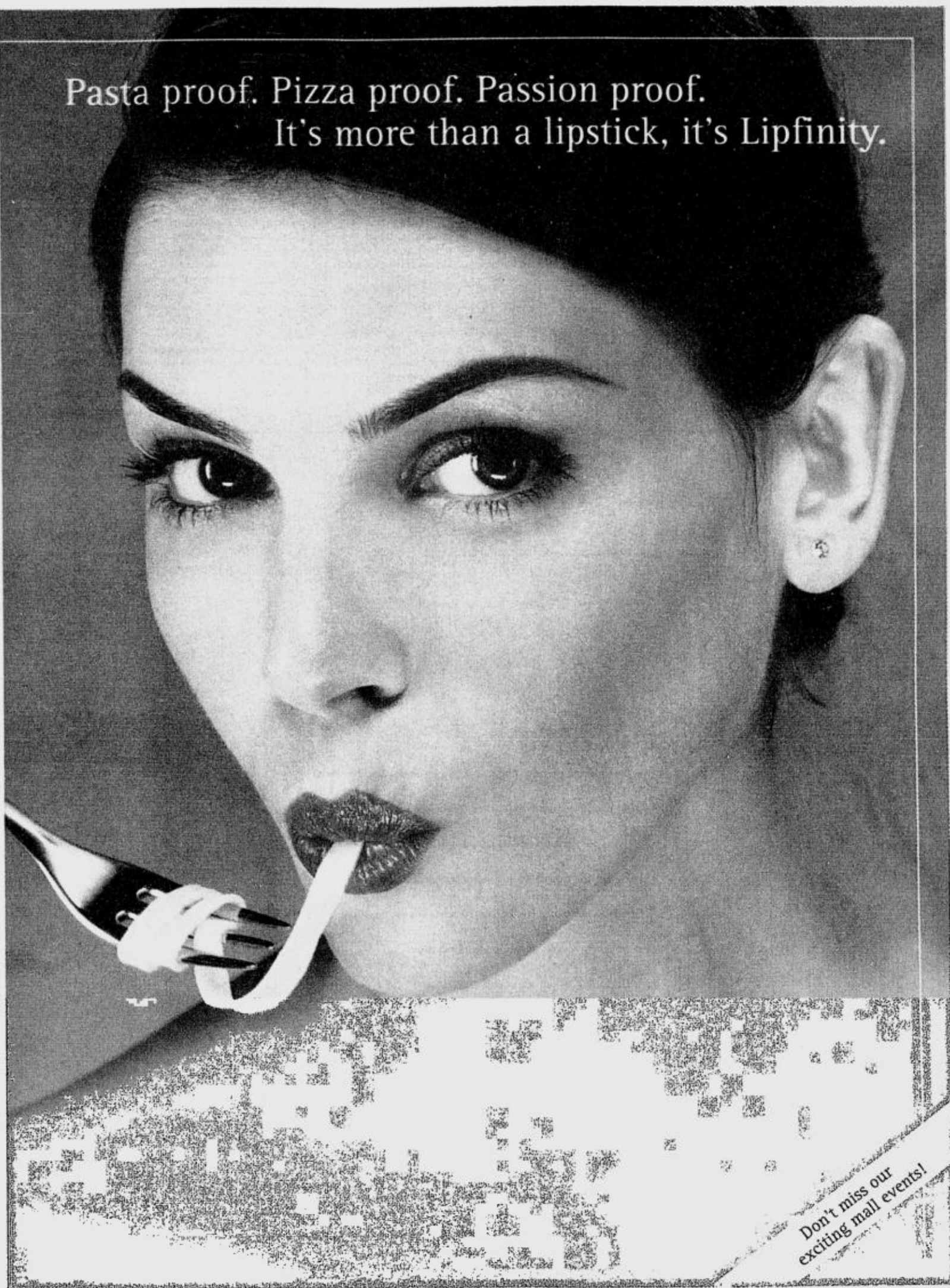
The daughter of the late Wilandre Santos and Alicia Santos, she graduated from the University of Santo Tomas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Tourism.

Santos will wear a white satin ballgown with a double train in light turquoise and fuchsia by Bulacan-based designer Jim de Jesus. The bodice and train are richly embellished with embroidered roses traced with pearls, beads, sequins and rhinestones, while the *alpang*-inspired horsehair sleeve and hemline will have scallop embroidery with pearls and rhinestones. Santos will be wearing jewelry especially designed by Joel Paguio of Naomi's Jewelry at SM North Edsa.



ILLUSTRATION BY COCOY LIZASO.

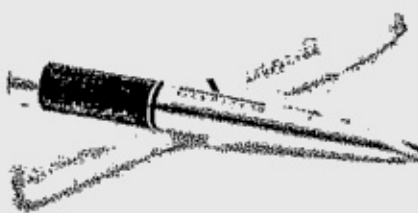
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May 6-12 SM Megamall

May 15-21
May 24-26

SM North Edsa
Powerplant Mall, Rockwell



THE GROUP of Chinese journalists from China pose for posterity with Dr. and Ms. George Ty, Metrobank chair, during a welcome dinner at Ty's residence held recently together with Marixi Rufino-Prieto, INQUIRER chair; lawyer Florencio Mallari, Worldnews chair; Solomon Yuyitung, Chinese Commercial News president; John Liwag Yap, Sino-Fil Daily, and other guests.



FUND-RAISING for rehab of drug users and livelihood for their families was organized by the office of Dr. Isabelita Sandoval-Roquero. The group includes L. Aguirre, R. Aguirre, L. Cadiz, H. Nicolas E. Reyes, B. Agapito, F. Santos, A. Espanola, M. Germar, I. del Rosario, H. Chan, C. Agustin, M. Ocampo, Dr. L. Uriarte, M. Cruz, L. Catabui, lawyer Z. Salvacion, lawyer D. Gorospe, C. Dasmariñas, R. Avenua, P. de los Santos.

Le Grand Dame Awards honors outstanding Filipina achievers

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THE FIRST Philippine Le Grand Dame Awards for Outstanding Filipina Achievers will be held in Manila as one of the highlights of Motherhood and Woman Expo, the first twin international exhibition on mother's, children's and women's needs.

Veuve Clicquot of France, makers of fine champagne, sponsors the Philippine Le Grand Dame Awards. In the Philippines, Veuve

CIVIC CIRCLE

Clicquot is represented by Philippine Wine Merchants. Le Grand Dame Awards will honor the achievements of the Filipina, an accomplished woman or mother. The awards committee is composed of members from TV, radio and newspaper, editors in chief of lifestyle magazines, the organizer of Motherhood and Woman Expo-Meeting Planners Group and the sponsors' representatives—Philippine Wine Merchants.

The award will have four categories: business, governance, humanitarian and special achievement award. Awardees will each be presented with Champagne Le Grand Dame, the premier champagne in France produced from the vineyards of Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin.

Motherhood and Woman Expo, a tradeshow featuring products and services for women, mothers and their children, will be held on Aug. 16-18 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong. More than 7,000 visitors are expected to attend the expo to view the following: Mothers and Babies' Needs, Home and Family, Business and Career Management, Kids' Needs, Education and Recreation.

Aside from the booths, attendees will also benefit from various information seminars, such as "How to Establish Your Own Home-Based Business," "Golfing Women—Finding the Winning Edge," "Identifying and Parenting Gifted Children," "Raising Balanced Children in an Imbalanced World," "Chef's Secrets—Preparing Your Dishes Like Fine Dining," "Wardrobe Mix-and-Match Tips," "Fashion Tips for Women Who Wear Sizes 16-25," "Fashion for the Petite," "Meeting the Financial Challenges of a Single-Earner," "Home Décor and Interiors: Space Savings Tips for City Dwellers," "Stress-Breaker—How to Achieve Balance and Eliminate Stress."

Fashion shows and makeovers for working women will also be held by some exhibitors. Call (632) 852-7618 to 19, fax (632) 852-7620, e-mail mpg@skynet.net, or visit www.motherhoodwomanexpo.com.

COMMUNITY BUILDING. It was enough to bring joy to the children and ambulant elders of Manila Boystown when the Elfun Society of General Electric (GE) Phils., with the American Chamber Foundation Phils. Inc., held a community day in the institution. At least 114 members of the Elfun Society, a global organization of volunteers composed of GE employees, officials and retirees, volunteered to repair the four-story building of Boys' Home at Manila Boystown, sheltering more than 200 orphaned, abandoned, abused and neglected children, and 127 ambulant elders of Manila. Together with their families who also came to participate, they welded and painted additional window grills, built and painted more than a hundred lockers and created a mini garden right in front of the boys' home unit. A short program and gift-giving activity among the elderly of the Lualhati ng Maynila followed.

MARRIAGE PROGRAM. The Retrouvaille Program provides an environment of hope to couples who are open to rebuild their relationship. The healing environment starts with a weekend experience, followed by six half-day post sessions to be scheduled. Three team couples and a priest, who have experienced misery, pain and conflict, offer hope by sharing their lived experiences. Retrouvaille encourages participants to reestablish communication and find new life-giving ways of looking at themselves and their relationship. The program assures participants of confidentiality in all its phases.

The Antipolo diocese is offering the Retrouvaille weekend on May 10-12 at the Saidi Formation Center, Taktak Drive, Antipolo, Rizal. Call 523-3361, 933-2783/84, 800-5902, 801-2371, 825-2605 or 718-0689.

Seminars on libraries and info centers

THE PHILIPPINE Group of Law Librarians will hold a three-day live-in seminar on the theme "Think Local, Act Global: Enhancing Competencies for Libraries and Information Centers" on May 6-8 at the Ciudad Christina Resort Inc., Carrieland Country Homes II, Ampid, San Mateo, Rizal. Call Sandy David at 899-7691 to 96 local 2002, 2006 or 2008; Nora Rey at 818-9836 to 39 local 426 or 206; Shirley Nava at 524-9740 or 521-1970.

- For more details, visit or call any of our branches:
1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting April 25, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.
 2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Vague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
 3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/women will receive any one (1) of the following:
 - a. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.
 - b. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
 - c. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail, and their names will be announced via print ads.
 - d. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification of the notification letter and a valid ID.
 - e. Raffle prizes are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.
 - f. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
 4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative. Fifteen (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2500
 5. David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services)
 6. Avon (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2500

PROMO MECHANICS

MESSAGE BOARD

MOMMY
You're the best! You're the one who makes me smile. You're the one who makes me laugh. You're the one who makes me feel loved. You're the one who makes me feel safe. You're the one who makes me feel like a princess. You're the one who makes me feel like a queen. You're the one who makes me feel like a goddess. You're the one who makes me feel like a diva. You're the one who makes me feel like a superstar. You're the one who makes me feel like a rock star. You're the one who makes me feel like a superstar. You're the one who makes me feel like a rock star.

MOM Makeover

Avon, David's Salon or Body and Soul Spa gift certificates in our And with your placement, your mom gets the chance to win and devoting hers to you as well!

A little something to thank her for giving you life —

After all, for everything that she has done, isn't this just in a unique and loving way.

and appreciation for her

or P150 per column centimeter, show your affection

For a discounted rate of P50 per line

Mother's Day Special Section of the Inquirer Classifieds.

Greet her on her special day in the

honored you are to have her as your mother.

This Mother's Day, let your mom know how

mother as wonderful as your mom.

Anyway you look at it, there's simply no other

Your premier adviser. Your no. 1 fan.

Your first teacher. Your staunch supporter.

MOM



THE ENTOURAGE. Tet and Aric pose at the garden of the Santuario de San Antonio Parish compound.



WITH PARENTS, from left, Joseph and Evangelina Deang, Nancy Dacanay-Racelis and the groom's uncle, Xylph Dacanay



RACELIS-DEANG

Mystery girl becomes love of his life

ARIC would crane his neck to get a better view every time he saw her at the office hallway.

Richard Aric Racelis and Maria Theresa Deang both work at San Miguel Corp. Aric is as a consultant with the conglomerate's information technology subsidiary, SMITS Inc., while Theresa or Tet, as she is fondly called, is a human resource assistant.

In October 1997, Aric visited Tet at her office to thank her in advance for helping him fill some of SMITS' staffing requirements. To his pleasant surprise, she turned out to be the girl on the hallway who he has been trying to meet since he caught a glimpse of her some three months back.

Aric decided he was not letting her slip away. Tet and Aric became steadies in November 1998 and became formally engaged in February 2001.

Early this year, with family and friends in attendance, Aric and Tet were wed at the Santuario de Antonio Parish Church in Forbes Park, Makati City.

Tet wore a spaghetti-strapped

gown with a drape design on the skirt by designer Ding Marquez for her wedding. Her walk down the aisle was accompanied by a touching rendition of the song "Panunumpa."

A sumptuous buffet luncheon followed at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

The Palawan Ballroom was adorned with flower topiaries in orange, hot pink and yellow arranged by florist Glenn Remorca. Henry Sison prepared a four-layer fondant ecru cake with gold accents.

The couple was serenaded by the bride's sister and matron of honor, Malou Bernardino, and the groom's sister and bridesmaid, Richie Anne Racelis.

Aric, a computer science graduate of De la Salle University, is the son of the late Felix Racelis and the former Nancy Faith Dacanay. Tet, a psychology graduate of Centro Escolar University, is the daughter of Joseph Deang and Evangelina Deang (nee David).

Overall coordination of Tet and Aric's memorable event was done by Weddings by Victoria.



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MOVIE EVENT

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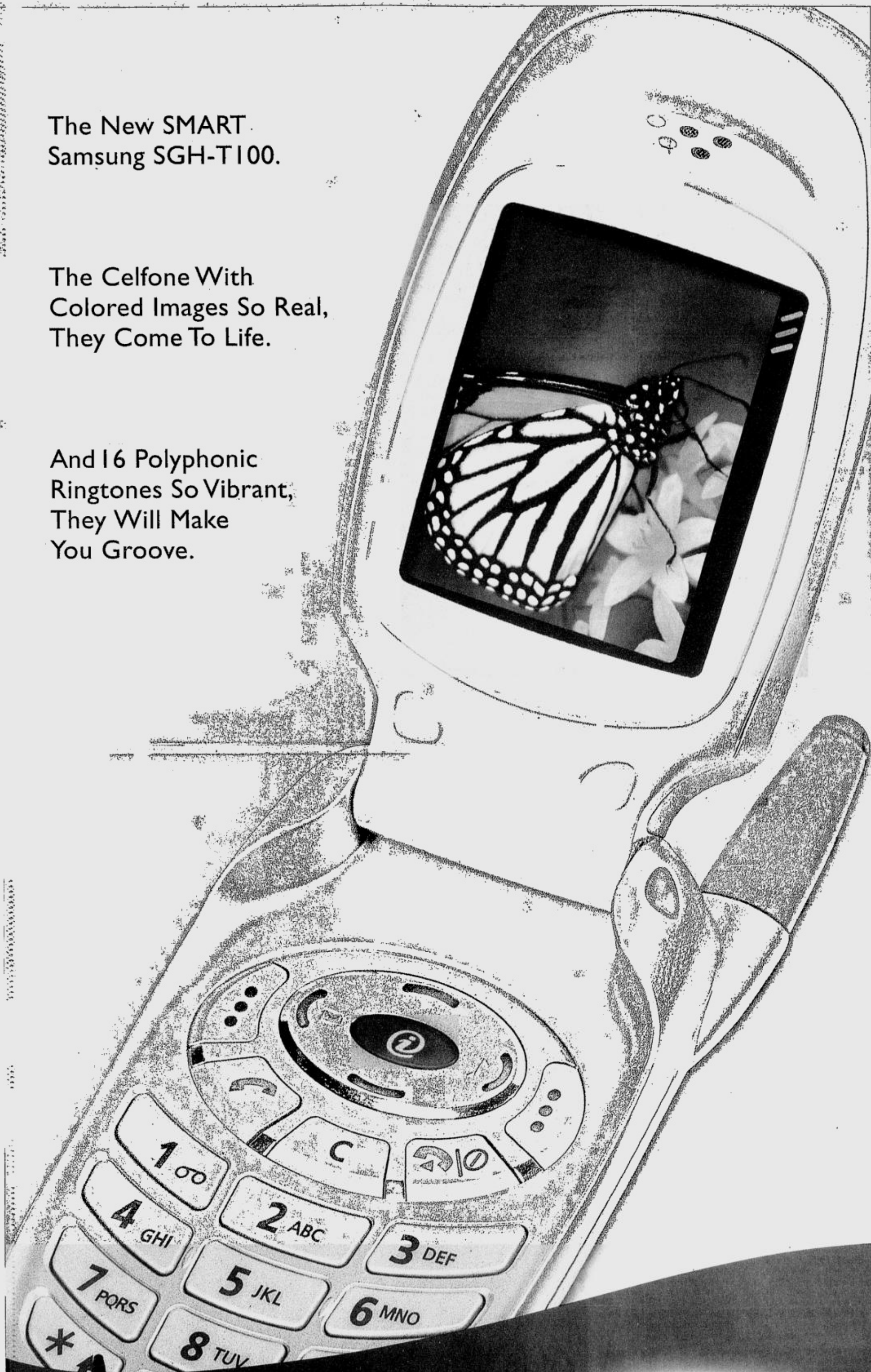


WITH WEDDING coordinator Cristina Victoria Velasco

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

The Cadillac of all airports

Text and photos by Cathy Babao Guballa

AIRPORT PHOTOS COURTESY OF NORTHWEST AIRLINES

CLEARLY in Detroit size matters. Home to the mammoth General Motors world headquarters, the city also boasts one of the five largest ports in the United States, the largest flower-bedding market in the world (Eastern Market), the largest island park within any city (Belle Island Park) and now, the largest and newest airport to open in the US in the last 10 years. Since Detroit is also known as the automotive capital of the US, city officials of Wayne County, where the airport is located, have dubbed the Edward H. McNamara Terminal/Northwest World Gateway as the Cadillac of all airports.

In late April, with the wind in Detroit at a nippy 30°C, a group of journalists from various parts of Asia was brought to Detroit to see and experience the new terminal, which, in the words of Cary Berner, project manager of the NW World Gateway, "was designed with the customer's comfort first and foremost." On a morning tour of the spanking new airport, Berner said, "Northwest wanted a facility that would forever change the way airports would be envisioned." He emphasized that the new terminal would be responsive to the customer's needs, one that would make the experience of traveling as much as hassle- and stress-free as possible.

The initial impression one got from the airport when viewed from the outside was that it was just an average-sized airport. When the media group from the Philippines first arrived in Detroit, they were not impressed. However, a few days later, on the day of their departure when the terminal tour took place, we were completely floored by what we saw.

The new airport is as huge as huge can be and truly and extremely passenger-friendly. Opened last Feb. 24 and built at a whopping \$1.2 billion, not a cent of which came from local tax dollars, the terminal is funded by federal and state grants, airline fees and passenger facility charges (PFCs). Owned by Wayne County whose chief the terminal was named after, Northwest Airlines and its partners, KLM and Continental, are the main tenants. Lufthansa and British Airways are expected to join later this year.

The entire complex is 2 million sq ft or approximately the size of 34 and 1/2 football fields. Departing passengers will be thrilled to know that there are hardly any lines here as there is a variety of check-in options to choose from. There are more than 80 E-Service centers (for self-ticketing), 24 curbside check-in positions and 106 ticket counters (or check-in counters as we know it in the Philippines). Even the check-in counter itself was designed with the customer's comfort in mind. Each counter has a waist-high counter to place a handbag or a small piece of luggage so there is no need to bend down. After going through very stringent security, a passenger can easily find any of the 97 gates, 64 of which are in the mile-long Concourse A, eight jet gates at Concourse B and 25 commuter gates (for smaller aircraft) at Concourse C.

The terminal has a linear design with sequential gate numbering and clear and prominent directional signage. International and domestic gates are located in one facility, thus making it easier and faster for international travelers to connect to their domestic flights, provided of course, they fly Northwest all the way. Otherwise, they would have to take a shuttle bus and move to a much older and smaller facility. In a city like Detroit, world-famous for its cold weather, that would certainly be an unwise move. How much more convenient for passengers to take Northwest all the way and instead walk through a spectacular 900-ft tunnel that links international and domestic concourses while enjoying a synchronized light and sound show.

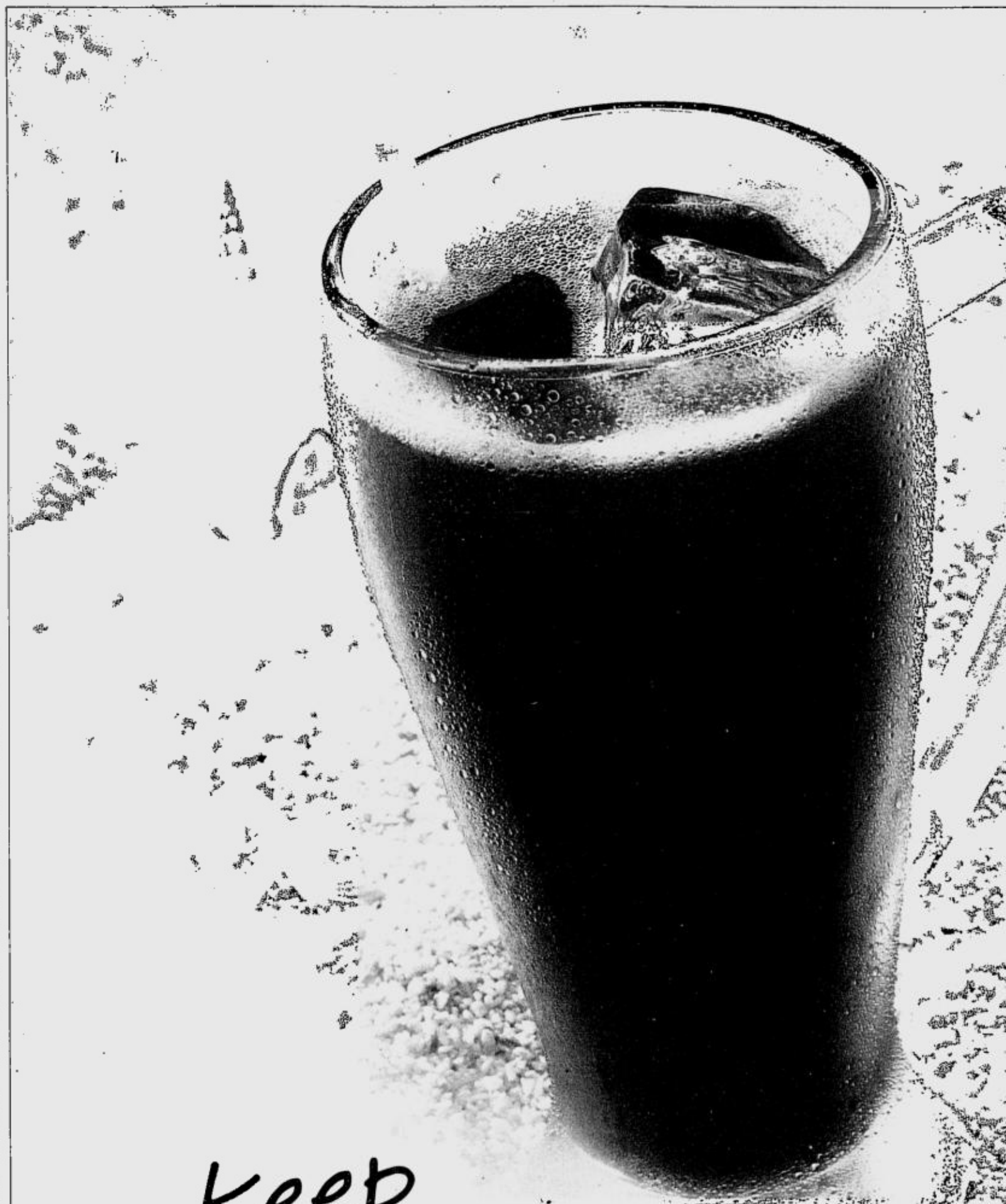
Don't let the number of gates or the long concourses daunt you—there are 1.5 miles of moving walkways to carry you from one end to the other and each time a moving walkway ends, there are rest rooms—475 of them (230 for men and 245 for women) which is double the number of rest rooms required by building codes for a facility of that size. All rest rooms have flip-down shelves for purses or bags in the toilet stalls and granite countertops. All along the walkway are strategically located flight information, restaurants at each end and a total of 80 retail shops from end to end. Plus, wherever there's an escalator, there's an elevator.

Impressive trams

However, the most impressive feature of the terminal are the two trams that run the entire length of Concourse A with a stop at the Link and a stop at each end. It's the only airport in the world with an elevated, enclosed tram

THE CADILLAC/p.64

DEPARTURE area of the Edward H. McNamara Terminal/Northwest World Gateway



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Stress-free antechamber to air travel



BRIEF STOPOVER. Park 'N Fly looms large at the corner of MIA and Domestic Roads.



HOME-COOKED food that's easy on the budget

Park 'N Fly offers air travelers a safe and clean place to park their cars before they catch their flights

By Alex Y. Vergara

FILIPINOS are now a step closer to hassle-free flying. A familiar service that used to be only available around most big airports in the United States is now available in Metro Manila.

Park 'N Fly (854-9302 to 04), at the corner of MIA and Domestic Roads, has formally opened recently to provide on-the-go air travelers a safe and clean place to park their cars before they catch their flights. Aside from its strategic location, Park 'N Fly is quite near the two airports—three actually if you include the nearly completed third terminal.

And how do customers get to and from any of the airports? A fleet of air-conditioned vans are on standby to transfer them and their luggage to any of the airports. The same customers need only call Park 'N Fly's 24-hour hotline and a van would pick them up upon their return.

Unlike parking areas at the mall, however, Park 'N Fly has a valet service. For security reasons, every car is thoroughly inspected before it's driven into one of the 200 available slots inside the four-level carport.

Innovative features

Again, trust Filipino ingenuity to improve on a tried-and-tested Western concept. The one-stop parking complex offers a number of services absent abroad. Customers of Park 'N Fly Shop, for instance, can wait at the air-conditioned lounge area, which is equipped with such amenities as real-time flight advisory, e-mail and fax services.

"They can kill the time while waiting for their flights at any of the establishments within the complex," says Park 'N Fly VP Richard Limcaco. "Some customers, for instance, have their cars serviced while they wait. Others have their hair and faces done."

Park 'N Fly complements the other services offered by the MIA Caltex gas station (yes, the one with the catchy tagline "Customer is King") with Xpress Lube vehicle maintenance and repair shop, StarMart 24-hour convenience store, unisex grooming salon and airport café.

These establishments are all owned and managed by the Limcaco family, led by couple Conrad and Ilene. Equitable Bank with a 24-hour ATM service and La Viajera travel agency, which pay rent to the family, complete the lineup of services.

"It all began with the gasoline station," says Conrad Limcaco, who pooled together the family's life's savings and opened a Mobil outlet on the very same spot 35 years ago. It eventually became a Caltex station when the oil company took over Mobil's operations in the Philippines several years ago.

Friends and relatives were skeptical when the Limcaco couple first opened for business. Aside from the small volume of traffic then, they said, the last thing on people's minds was to gas up to and from the airport. Were they wrong.

"I persisted," says the elder Limcaco, "and with my wife and my sons' help, the business has grown and diversified through the decades. Park 'N Fly is the realization of my dreams." The family is said to have invested P150 million for the entire complex, including the gas station.

Family affair

Except for youngest son Roland, who's now based in Canada, oldest son Raymond and twins Richard and Robert are directly involved in the company's operations. Roland, a reluctant model, however, is virtually present through his giant, bespectacled image promoting Park 'N Fly.

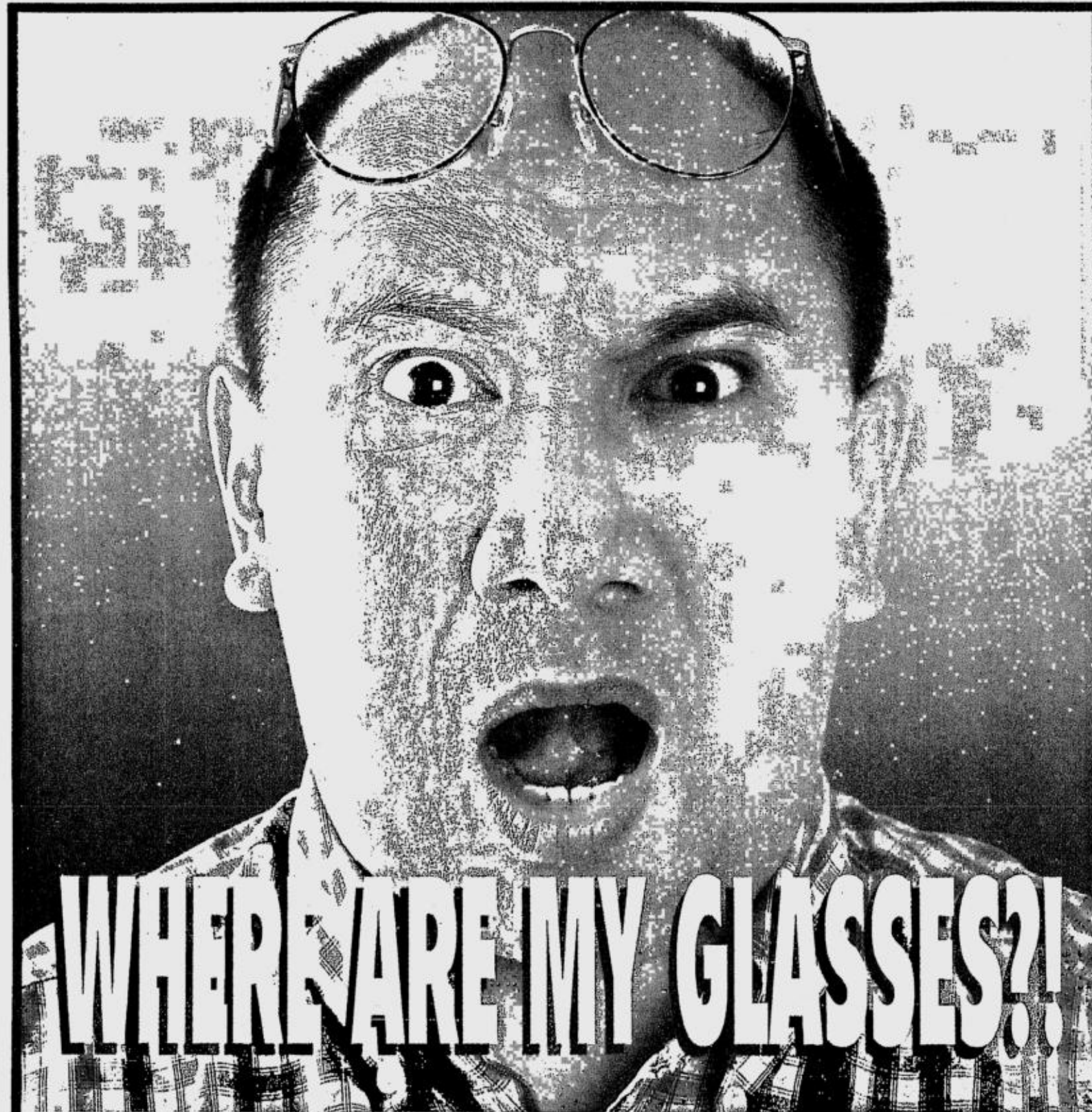
People may find the P200 daily parking fee a bit steep, but Richard insists that such an amount is cheaper in the long run. Depending on where one lives, he says, it takes, say, P300 to take a taxi from one's home to the airport.

There's always the possibility of unforeseen delays because of lack of taxis and inconsiderate taxi drivers. The person then shells the same amount (or more!) upon his return if he

STRESS-FREE/ p. G7



SHINY new vans on standby



Some say Life begins at 40, but it may be the beginning of your brain's gradual decline.



A most common example in everyday life is the difficulty people have in recalling a person's name, or misplacing certain items. This can be very embarrassing and frustrating.

The efficiency of the brain's transmitter system begins to decrease in your 40's and 50's. By the time you reach middle age you can be 10% to 15% slower to react.

Even before you find yourself in an embarrassing situation, start drinking Abbott ESSENTIAL twice daily.

Abbott ESSENTIAL is the first adult health drink that's fortified with OPTIMIND, the brain-boosting nutrient complex that helps maximize the power of your mind.

- Optimum potassium/magnesium for mental alertness and concentration.
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Important vitamins and minerals are better absorbed in the presence of the macro-nutrients (proteins and carbohydrates) found in Abbott ESSENTIAL because it's in liquid form.

What's more, Abbott ESSENTIAL provides 100% RDA of vitamin C to help fight infections, vitamin E for a healthy heart and skin and calcium for strong bones, plus 100% RDA of all other essential vitamins and minerals your body needs for optimum energy use. Plus fiber for a healthy digestive system to provide protection against colon cancer.

Before you forget, power up your mind with Abbott ESSENTIAL.

In 2 delicious flavors: Belgian Chocolate and Creme de Vanille.



Available in 200 gm. sachet, 400 gm. can and 1 kg. can at all Mercury Drug outlets, supermarkets and drugstores nationwide.

POWER UP YOUR MIND!



For your eyes only

New image models Donita Rose and Jericho Rosales are being introduced by i21 New York at 4 p.m. today at the Glorietta Activity Center.

The party starts as early as 11 a.m. with mime performers, stilt walkers and balloon makers. After lunch the Maneuvers and ramp models take centerstage as they sashay down the runway with their i21 eyewear to the beat of the latest mix by DJ Ayee.

Information on franchise package opportunities and special financing schemes for i21, which has more than 90 branches nationwide, will be available during the party.

Dear Tita Dulce,

There is a problem I want to solve, not mine, but that of my cousin.

When she was only 18 years old, she had a boyfriend for one month. It ended suddenly because she discovered the boy courted her only because his friends bet with him she would not accept him.

She is now 24 years old, afraid it might happen again. However, somebody is courting her now, seemingly very sincere but still she has fears about what happened in the past. She really wants to have a boyfriend. At present, she's seeing a male friend, who is a seaman. She says what she has also been hoping for is to have a foreigner boyfriend or a seaman.

Her problem now is that she

LIVE AND LET LIVE



Tita Dulce

gets embarrassed when she is seen with him, and when he holds her hand she scolds him. All of us, her cousins, really want to see her move on with her life.

What advice can you give? We do not want her to be a spinster.

ANA

As I have stated here several times, the seed of love germinates best in the soil of friendship. You and your cousins can invite the two to lunch, prefer-

ably in your home, and then all of you can find excuses to leave, so that the two of them can stay and talk for a while. If that seaman is really sincere, he will also invite her for a movie, or he should also visit her in her home.

Make sure that your cousin keeps busy with a hobby (or does she have a job?) so that when that seaman is away, she will not just sit down and listen to her lonely heart.

You can think of other things to do, because you care for her. If they are really meant for each other, everything will be fine. If he breaks her heart again, you and your cousins can ease the pain by being there and listening to her. Encourage her to express herself.

On foot odor

SOME time ago I read about a

medicine from Mercury Drug Store that removes foot odor. Can you please give the name again? Thank you.

E.V.T.

Drug stores surely have them, just ask the salesgirl. However, since you mentioned Mercury Drug, these are what they have: Scholl foot spray, Tinactin powder, Canesten and Desenex.

On old coins

Dear readers who have old coin collections:

Albino Quiban of the Bank Notes Society of the Phils. has requested that this advice be given to collectors of old coins: Don't clean them to avoid scratching them. The lightest scratch can lower their value. However, baking soda can be used to clean 24-centavo coins, as well as the 10-

centavo and 5-centavo coins now in the market.

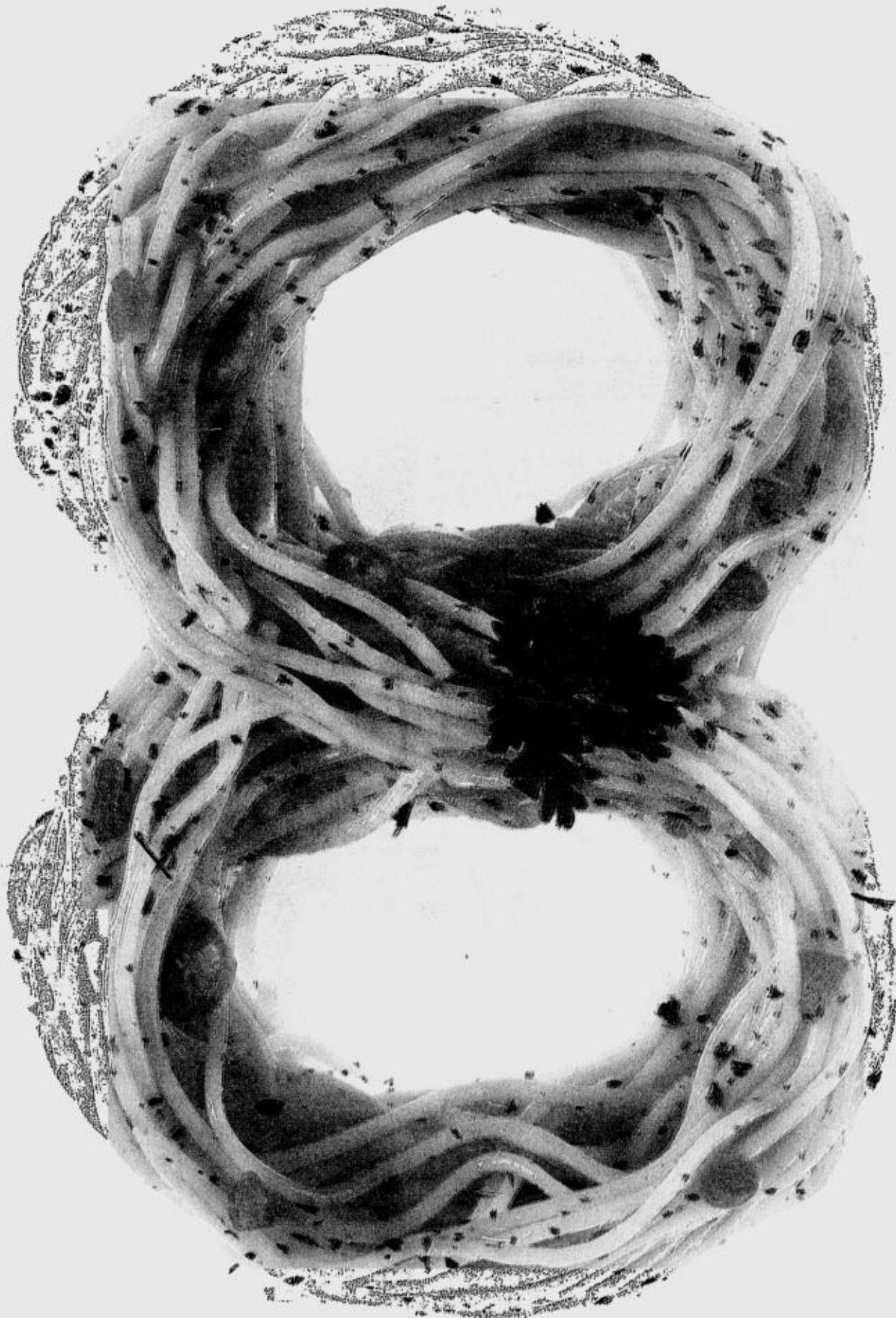
In our modern world, it seems that "old money" is still around. Another reader wrote to ask what she could do about Victory notes her grandmother has been keeping in an old chest. As you know, they have been demonetized and our banks will not accept them. Many even look blurred because they are covered with fungi. Here's good news. Quiban might still want to buy them. Dear Clare, call Quiban at 524-0548 or e-mail him at bnsppacific.net.ph if you can convince your grandma to let them go.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, Makati City

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It cleanses your body of waste materials. Water absorbs and carries away poisons formed within your body. Thus, pure water can do a much better job than when it is contaminated.
- FOUR**
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- FIVE**
It makes your food and beverages taste better. Distilled water releases the natural, fresh taste of coffee, juices and the like. It also makes food tastier and their color brighter.
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It prevents the entry of harmful substances in your body. Unlike pure, safe, distilled drinking water, tap water may contain disease-causing substances.
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It sharpens your mind. Dehydration has been shown to affect mental wellness. Distilled drinking water maintains proper hydration and mental focus.
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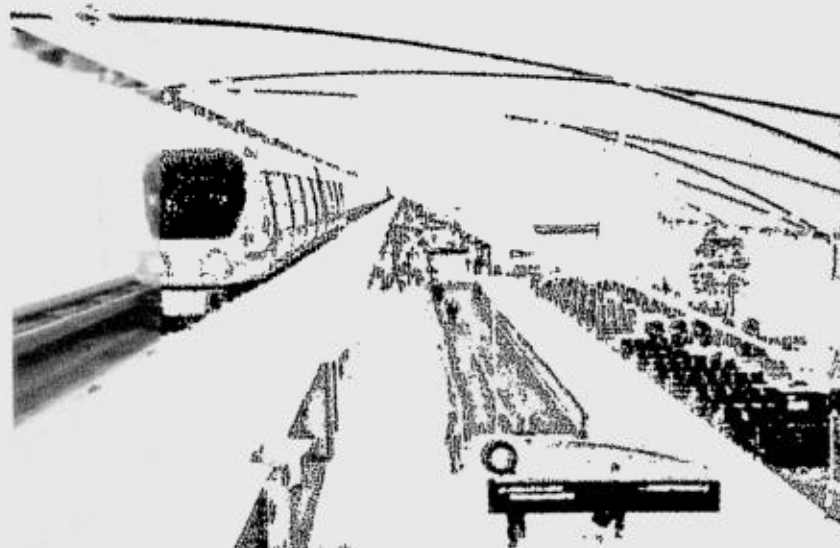
From page G1

Detroit's newest airport is the size of almost 35 football stadiums. It has 97 gates and 475 toilets, and can process 3,200 passengers an hour

within the terminal. The shiny red trains can each carry 200 passengers at a time or 4,000 passengers per hour. Boarding at each stop is 30 seconds and travel time between stops is a mere minute. The entire trip takes 2½ minutes from end to end. Depending on your location in the terminal, there are signs all over to advise you whether it is faster to take the tram or just step on the moving walkway. You may also opt to walk if you feel like giving your legs a workout, especially before a long-haul flight.

According to Berner, Northwest is very particular about long lines and at this airport you will hardly see any—from check-in to immigration and customs lines. An approximate 30 million passengers per year are expected to use the facility, thus customs and immigration have been set up to have the ability to process an amazing 3,200 passengers per hour—that's about the passenger load of nine 747s. The problem of luggage that is usually the bane of most arriving passengers is alleviated by a luggage-handling system that has a total of 18 luggage carousels—11 of which are domestic and seven international. For departing passengers there is the added convenience of 24 Sky Cap curbside luggage check-in positions so that you don't need to haul luggage from the parking lot to the terminal itself.

Speaking of parking, the McNamara Terminal has an enormous parking garage that is the

GM world HQ in
downtown Detroit

THE EXPRESS Tram



DIEGO Garcia mural at the Detroit Institute of the Arts (DIA)



JFK's car on display at the Henry Ford Museum



FAÇADE of the Henry Ford Museum

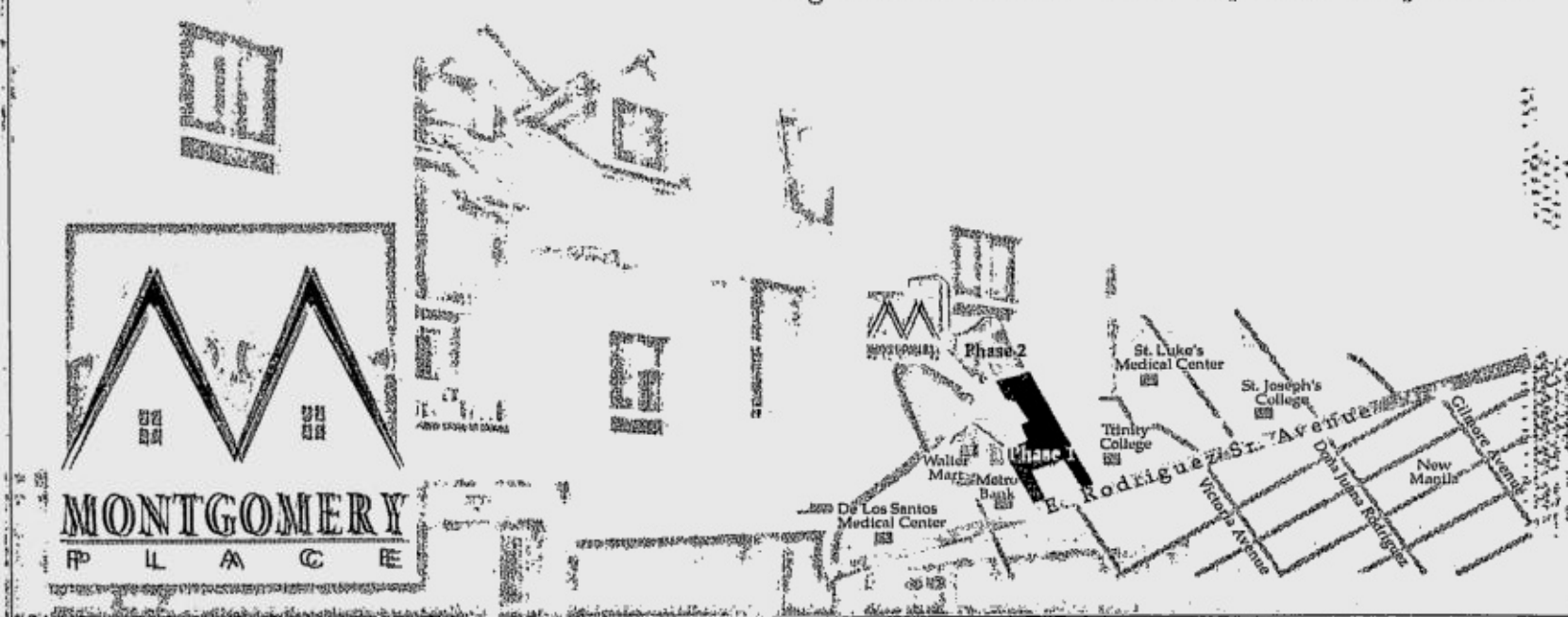
Feel safer when your kids play outside.

Times are different from when we were growing up. And while we want to give our kids the freedom to be kids, we also want to be extra careful.

That's why living at Montgomery Place is about more than just living in a good location. It's about living in a secluded, private townhouse community, with round-the-clock security.

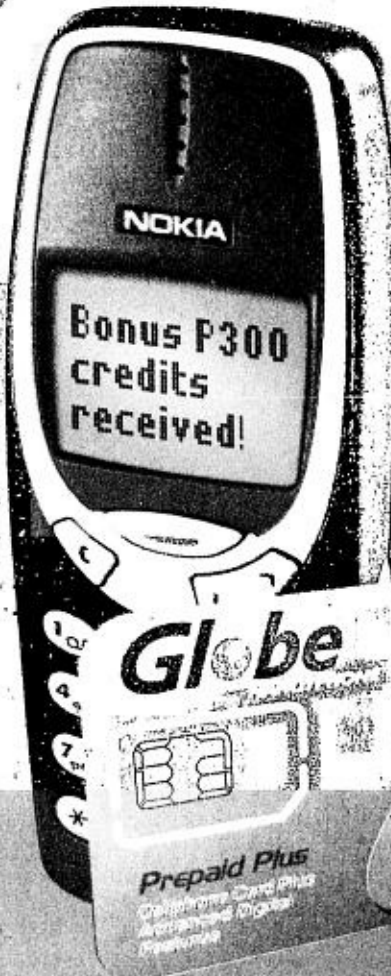
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Promo period: May 1 to June 15, 2007

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1684, Series of 2002

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CLEAN, well-lit parking space

From page G2

gets an airport taxi to take him home or to the office.

"Based on our research," says Richard, "more and more people are now doing away with personal drivers. Indeed, Park 'N Fly is the kind of service they need. We offer cheaper monthly rates."

Park 'N Fly's market research also yielded



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several consumer traits that are uniquely Filipino. Security, for instance, is foremost among their minds. That's why each level of the parking complex is manned by an ample number of security guards. Cars parked at lower levels are shielded by wire mesh from stone and other flying debris.

"Filipinos don't want to expose their cars to the elements as well," says Richard. Well, they've gotten their wish since every level of Park 'N Fly has a roof.

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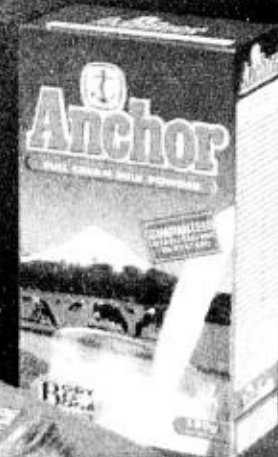
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largest in the world. The 10-level parking garage has 11,500 spaces and at 3.9 million sq ft, it is the largest single parking structure in the world built at one time. Within the garage are enclosed, moving walkways, luggage check-in points, 10 e-ticket machines and even a valet parking service.

The terminal is also very family-friendly, with more than adequate seating for everyone. There are 9,000 leather seats in gate areas for waiting passengers and more than a dozen family rest rooms (structured so everyone can be there at the same time). There are also strategically located children's play areas with adjacent seating areas for families within Concourse A. An added visual treat for the terminal's passengers is the stunning 40-ft granite water feature in the Center Link area. The fountain, which reportedly cost a couple of million dollars, is the focal point in the terminal, an area where travelers like to mill around. It also serves as a meeting point for families or large groups traveling together.

Business lounges

Business travelers will marvel at Northwest's fabulous World Business Lounges. The McNamara terminal has four state-of-the-art lounges, which are every business traveler's dream. The lounges have power/data ports at every seat in the main lounge area and several large workstations located in a separate work room, each with data ports for modem hookup. There are secured lockers for storing luggage, each with power outlets for charging cell phones and laptop computers. There are two data ports per table throughout most of the club. Added features are several large and small conference rooms and a real-time stock ticker. Additional creature comforts are a lounge/bar area with satellite television for sports and business news; fireplaces; enhanced food and drink selections, with separate stations for alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages. However, several passengers were overheard saying that they wished that there were some "real" food available in addition to the drinks that were being offered. In November 2002, a luxurious Westin Hotel will be connected to the terminal but rooms are expected to fetch a premium at \$200 plus per night.

Security, which is a primary concern for airports worldwide but more so in the US, is an area that has been well-thought of and beefed up especially in light of 9/11. There are currently 21 security check points at various areas throughout the facility with an additional two to be added when the Westin Hotel opens. Luggage systems are equipped with highly sensitive explosive-detection equipment.

The Cadillac of all airports has high arched ceilings, open spaces, extensive glass and large gate areas with abundant seating at 9,000 passenger seats in the waiting areas throughout the facility. McNamara Terminal is expected to be truly Northwest's premiere gateway to the rest of the world though the city of Detroit itself has much to offer as well.

Automobile junkies can have their fill here touring the various museums and facilities of the Ford motor company, General Motors and Daimler-Chrysler. The Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village is the most visited and largest indoor/outdoor historical complex in North America. Fans of Motown will thrill at visiting the Motown Historical Museum which is filled with rare photographs, gold records, artists' costumes and other Motown memorabilia. For mall rats there is the upscale and fabulous Somerset Collection in the suburb of Troy, Michigan that is one of the most beautiful malls in the country with an extensive selection of merchandise. So, before going on with the rest of your journey, get off at the new McNamara/Northwest World Gateway terminal and have yourself, as the Detroit Metro convention and visitors bureau hopes—"a great time in Detroit."

Northwest flies daily to Detroit with a stop-over in Nagoya, Japan.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



GREAT TIME IN DETROIT. NW's Tani Lloren and the author outside the DIA



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Photo was taken at the model unit

TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

Bliss in Borobudur

By Vic Albornoz Lactaoen

IT IS 5 a.m. The central Java plain lies silent in the tropical dark, and the palm trees are motionless. Above, unfamiliar galaxies wheel, and the encircling volcanoes are visible only as the ragged rim of an alien planet.

As I make my way forward, a massive form looms and gradually resolves into a dark shape of unimaginable size, with a domed zenith pointing to the heavens like a great, firm breast. This is Candi Borobudur—last monument to a lost civilization, seat of untold mystery.

Cautiously, I pass through a stone gateway and grope my way up flights of ancient steps. At each of six levels, galleries lead off into the dark, their sides carved with timeworn representations of love and suffering. At the seventh level the terraces broaden out, the stone reliefs giving way to open stages from which strange bell-shape structures rise. I settle in to await the dawn of a new day.

At first light, the structures around me begin to assume shadowy form. There are a dozen of them, huge bells of latticed stone. These are stupas—burial chambers. As dawn builds, a human profile emerges inside the nearest stupa. When the first rays surmount the jagged summit, the serene face of the Buddha is illuminated within his enclosure. The statue's right hand is held up, thumb and forefinger touching, in the pose of *vitarka mudra*, signifying compassionate preaching.

Clambering around the three upper terraces I count 72 such stupas. That facing due east lacks its bell, as if to allow the Enlightened One a clear view of the rising sun. Seventy-two statues: a single metaphor, pointing to heaven.

Center

Java is Indonesia's geographical, political and economic center, the most populated island in an archipelago of more than 13,000 islands. Those who live outside the squalor of the cities till the rich farm soil in landscapes of breath-taking beauty. The spine of the volcanoes that runs the length of the island provides a smoking backdrop to emerald paddies and winding rivers. Within these lush valleys communities have lived in relative isolation from each other, preserving language, custom, and an animist tradition rooted in nature.

For those primed for such a journey, the seat of the mystical will be discovered 26 miles northwest of royal Yogyakarta, the island's cultural capital. It is here, at Java's precise geographical center, where the *candi*-shrine of Borobudur stands.

From this high point, the plane is under a sea of mist washing the Menoreh Hills to the north. The eye is drawn to a temple-like building halfway up. This strange UFO-like structure is Amanjiwo—"peaceful soul" in Sanskrit, and my destination.

The two sites are inextricably linked in ways that are quite unexpected. While Candi Borobudur is old, very old, Amanjiwo is new. The journey there begins at the foot of the monument where a great beast awaits.

Sella is a Sumatran elephant. Riding on her shoulders, passing



through villages at roof level, I see children abandon their games among mats of drying tobacco leaf to wave and shout. The lane climbs through foothills wreathed in mango and clove to afford a sudden view of a great rotunda outlined against the blurred watercolors of the Kedu plain below.

I dismount cautiously and then ascend a flight of limestone stairs in a blizzard of jasmine petals strewn by giggling girls in sarongs and *melati* (sompaguita) tiaras. At the top stands a tall Javanese woman with shoulder-length hair and wearing a royal brown and purple *salenda* (scarf). With dignity she bows, palms resting together. This is how one is welcomed at Amanjiwo. "Our wish is simply that you fall in love with Java," she murmurs.

Amanjiwo was created by Adrian Zecha, begetter of Amanresorts, what is perhaps the most extraordinary hotel in Southeast Asia and the most luxurious chain of boutique hotels in the world. Zecha's architect, Ed Tuttle, spent 20 years musing on the design of Amanjiwo before bowing to the power of Candi Borobudur. The aesthetics are what the first-time visitor notices most. First is a spectacular location, then comes the architecture.

The Amanjiwo taps into a romantic vision of Java; this resort hotel reflects not only the strong Javanese *cum* Buddhist culture but also, in a sophisticated, refined way, the indigenous architecture that goes with the central Javanese island.

To each guest is assigned a mentor, a Javanese guide and friend. Mine is Arno, a gentle, smiling man. He leads the way to my suite, a domed pavilion hidden within limestone walls topped with spider lilies and mauve and cream morning glories. Glass doors

open to a private pool at the other end of which

THE ANCIENT WONDER, built with some 60,000 cubic meters of stone

STUPAS at the top



CARVINGS of the highest craftsmanship

sits a *kubuk*, a thatched gazebo. Within, a pillared bed is raised on a platform and covered in a fragrant tapestry of budding flowers.

A corridor leads to a sunken bathtub in the open air. (Bathrooms are a particular pleasure zone, inspired by an almost Zen-like belief that bathing is as much a cultural act as a hygienic one.)

When the first rays surmount the jagged summit, the serene face of the Buddha is illuminated

Mystery

Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of Singapore, became lieutenant governor of Java in 1814. Candi Borobudur had lain buried under centuries of volcanic ash, vegetation and forgetfulness. It took 200 of Raffles' men a month and a half just to clear the site, exposing the largest Buddhist sanctuary in existence. Borobudur was revealed as a monument like no other, with no roof, no vault and no chamber.

Although the country converted to Islam soon after completion of the monument, knowledge of its meaning survived in the collective memory and in the arcane traditions of local people. Yet it would be more than another century and a half before scholars could begin to penetrate its mysteries. Early in the 20th century, the Dutch began to tackle the restoration of Borobudur, but over the years the supporting hill had become water-logged and the whole immense stone mass started to subside. A \$25-million restoration project was undertaken between 1973 and 1983.

For eons the mystic hill of Tidar had been revered as the geographic and spiritual center of Java. It was around this sacred site that the construction of Candi Borobudur began in about 760 AD and continued for 70 years.

No traces of ancient palaces or even cities have been found in central Java, so the source of wealth and organization required for its construction remains in doubt. The 1,460 panels, depicting the life of Prince Siddharta Gautama, his previous incarnations, and enlightenment as Buddha, display artistry and craftsmanship of the highest order. Little else is known about Borobudur's early history. The Sailendras must have recruited a huge work

force, for some 60,000 cubic meters of stone had to be hewn, transported and carved during its construction. Yet within a few years of its completion, the civilization that fostered Borobudur had vanished, and the sanctuary fell into desuetude. Or did it? Although the Javanese overwhelmingly profess Islam, theirs is not monolithic, and many practice a form retaining elements common to the Buddhism of Borobudur's day.

Meaning

Following the traditional three-mile clockwise circumnavigation of the terraces, scholars describe each level as representing a different layer of meaning, starting in the everyday world and spiraling up to nirvana.

At the base, concealed behind a meter of stone, and visible only in one exposed corner, the reliefs display carnal scenes. The world depicted is dominated by passion and desire, in which only the just undergo reincarnation into higher forms of life.

Entrance to the next level up, which tells the story of Buddha's life, would have been open to all. The topmost tells of an ordinary youth's search for wisdom, which may have been available only to more advanced seekers, while admission to the highest levels could have been restricted to the elite. Six square terraces are topped by three circular ones, with four stairways leading through finely carved gateways to the top. The paint is long gone, but it is thought that the gray stone of Borobudur was at one time washed with white or golden yellow to catch the sun.

Despite careful restoration, Borobudur has remained largely obscure beyond Java. With the arrival of Amanjiwo, that changes. The silvered dome, restful pavilions and sweeping vistas of this colonnaded retreat provide more than respite from the crowds below; they offer the meditative distance necessary to enter the metaphysical realm in which the great sanctuary resides. Viewed from the air, the whole resort complex looks like a giant three-dimensional tantric mandala—eternal nothingness.

Days pass as if in a reverie. A new dawn breaks, this time under a full moon. It is the feast of *Waisak*, holiest in the Buddhist calendar. The rising sun catches the saffron robes of the great throng of pilgrims gathering before Mendut temple, where a giant Buddha sits in silent meditation, flanked by *bodhisattvas*. Slowly the procession begins to wend its way through the *kampongs* (districts), pausing at Candi Pawon for incantations and blessings. All the while it gathers in number until, finally, Borobudur is reached.

Here candles are lit, flowers strewn and prayers chanted in celebration of the Buddha's awakening. Silence falls and all eyes are raised to the high central stupa, the walls of its dome curving around emptiness. Sacred space. Nothingness. Nirvana.

Slowly and silently the pilgrims drift away.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

e-Card competition

CATHAY Pacific Airways has launched the "Best of Hong Kong e-Card Message Contest," which offers 1,000,000 miles in prizes from Asia Miles to people who can write the best "e-card" on what makes Hong Kong a great place to visit.

The message must not exceed 150 words and must dwell on any of these themes: food, shopping, entertainment and places of interest.

The best e-card entry will be picked each month for the next three months. The top winner

will receive 20,000 Asia Miles (enough for a round-trip economy class ticket from Hong Kong to Taipei); the runner-up, 15,000; the third-place winner, 10,000; and the next eight best entries, 5,000. Miles can also be used to redeem goods and services from Asia Miles' partners.

For directions on how to enter the competition, visit www.cathaypacific.com.

Expanded fleet

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Philippines has expanded its fleet by purchasing two new ships, WG&A president Endika Aboitiz

announced at a recent business forum in Cebu City.

SuperFerries 15 & 16 are due for delivery in September and expected to be in full operation by yearend.

Each ship has a capacity of 9,320 tons for cargo and passengers and is equipped with navigation aids such as radar, echo sounder, gyro compass, auto pilot, automatic collision system, M/E remote control system, bow thruster and magnet log. Top speed is 22.90 knots.

WG&A has 10 other vessels serving to "bridge islands, people and cultures."

May fiesta

TODAY is the last day of Festival Supremall's revelry with the Masskara street dancers from Bacolod City.

But the celebration goes on until May 7 with a trade fair showcasing wares, delicacies and souvenirs from various provinces at the mall's Carousel Court.

The mall is located at Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang. For inquiries, call 850-3514.

Tourism Awards 2002

THE SINGAPORE Tourism Board (STB) is now accepting nomina-

tions for its Tourism Awards in line with its efforts to raise the standard of service in the industry.

Now into its 17th year, the Tourism Awards has 21 categories, 15 of which are open for nominations from the public. Last year, more than 23,000 nominations were received from both overseas visitors and Singapore residents.

The nomination period runs until May 31. Overseas visitors may submit their nominations online at www.visitsingapore.com/tourismawards.

Travel guide

WORLDLINK Books has published "Philippines Travel Companion," a handy guide on the provinces of the country with easy-to-read information and quick-reference maps.

Written by David King, the guide features more than 1,000 natural, cultural and historical attractions, 300 resorts and hotels with contact numbers and Internet addresses, and a directory of land, air and sea transport.

It is available at the National Bookstore at P80 a copy.



CLEAN, well-lit parking space

From page G2

gets an airport taxi to take him home or to the office.

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LAZY LAYOVER. Airport passengers kill time without being hassled by the disconcerting PA system and endless flow of human traffic.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE



The Blind and the Beautiful

By Kitty Go
Contributor

SOCIETY figures walk a thin line between celebrity and private life. I once asked an intern to get me the picture of Lizzie Zobel and she brought me one of Liz Taylor. I totally understood. In a way, this kid was like me who couldn't tell between Claudia Koronel and Claudine Barretto.

I do not call myself an expert on anything, least of all Manila society. However, one of my mother's mysterious friends, Constance Brooke San Lorenzo Pendleton, who has been part of the international jet-set since the '50s, always rattles off a mouthful about everything.

I love to listen to her critique of social climbing as a way of life: "I think it is important not to care about advancing. If you excel, the right people will notice and will seek you out. It's useless to try so hard. I think the worst thing you can do is to climb so obviously—that turns off too many people." She doesn't understand social climbers "because I never really had to climb."

No names

The combination of fashion, society and show biz is like a freak triplet birth. Throw in business and politics and you'll never be able to sort the mess.

That's what happened to me when I had lunch with Tita Constance and her self-proclaimed "royal" friend, Liddy Salumi di Ucampu Sint John or, as she introduced herself to me, "just call me Muppy." *Ilongga pala!*

Unlike me, Tita Constance doesn't like naming names because she believes it is rude. "No names, *hija*," she said when I asked for names (or even initials, a habit I picked up from dzRH DJ Deo Macalma). Be that as it may, you don't leave a lunch with those two without dragging contaminated material.

"Take this lover boy who is now a law-maker," said Constance. "I hear he voted for Brap because he couldn't pay the billions for two ships that are still floating in Subic! When in doubt, a Jollibee franchise should do the trick. I think it wins hands down over a *sari-sari* store. Even the Harvard Business School has Jollibee as a case study but it never had 'ships in Subic' for Business 101."

"Wasn't he the lust object of this artist who threw a fit and hurled forks, plates and daggers at this designer like he was at a Greek wedding party?" volunteered Muppy, who is as ugly inside as she is on the outside, thanks to botched plastic surgery that made her look like a cross between Marilyn

Our equal opportunity basher spares not Manila's high society and those clamoring to get there

Manson and Keith Richards. Come to think of it, this man could do the queens a favor by voting to pass the gay rights bill.

Over the rainbow

"Speaking of favor," said the Bvlgari and Cartier-decorated Muffy, "we could all use one from this lavishly unchic woman who wore a rainbow-themed terno and matching shoes. What a disgrace to the history of Philippine costume! You'd wonder which came first: the terno or the shoes."

I think by "lavishly unchic," Lady St. John meant "horribly unchic," as in wearing Thierry Mugler to a children's party in the '90s.

"Naku, I would never invite that woman to my parties," she added. "So what if she's an investment banker. She's the second wife of a

THE BLIND/p.H2



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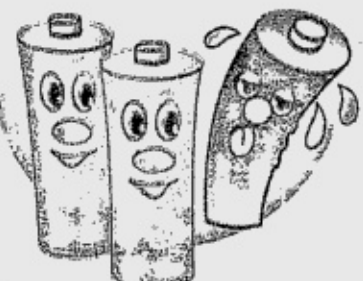
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0533, Series of 2002

Yan ang galling without overspending!



Designer living in a world of lies and make-believe?

MUST-GO-TO MALL—the new improved and awesome Greenbelt Mall. Well, the long wait is over. The Greenbelt Mall will be finally opening. Two weeks ago, members of the press were invited to canapés and coffee.

The Ayala Land Inc.'s, dynamic and hard working team, answered our queries and took us on a tour of their new baby. We checked out the two-story townhouses (exquisite!) above the mall and proceeded to Greenbelt 4, which houses the entertainment center. It will have six cinemas (two THX and four digital), Timezone and an amphitheater for open-air entertainment.

Every major developer in town (even as far away as Libis) must be shaking in their boots because this will be the place to be. Aesthetically, it's the most beautiful mall in the city, where you would like to hang, see and be seen in.

It changes our idea of what malls should be (think: tall, box-like and soulless) and will usher in a new experience for us who think that malls are more important than, uhmm, staying in your house.

What makes this place more appealing is that it's built around a park with plenty of greenery and open space. If you are a plant and nature lover (think **Lourna Pal** in that save-the-tree MTV she did 20 years ago), you will definitely love this place.

I am sure that you will be hearing more about the new Greenbelt Mall in the coming weeks. I can't stop raving about it.

When we toured there was still a lot of construction going on, but from the looks of things, it's on the right track! **Must-get CD—Josh Groban.** This is my absolute favorite CD of the moment and once you hear this man's beautiful voice you will also get addicted as well.

Twenty-one-year-old Josh Groban describes his style as operatic minus the arias. He was discovered by multi-awarded **David Foster** and he launched his debut album late last year. My favorite tracks are "You're Still Young,"

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego



"Cinema Paradiso," "To Where You Are," "Let Me Fall (*Frome Cirque du Soleil*)," "Home to Stay," "The Prayer" (sung with **Charlotte Church**), and his haunting rendition of the classic "Vincent" (think: starry, starry night). If you love **Bocelli, Russel Watson**, you will love this one! It's a must buy!

Eye Spy—Hong Kong. Getting away from it all is a sure-fire way to keep sane in Manila. A trip to Tagaytay or the US or a stroll in the park can certainly keep away the blues.

Last weekend, I was invited to experience the new business class of Cathay Pacific, and it was a great experience. The seats are much wider, comfortable, hi-tech.

First night in Hong Kong I hooked up with a friend and checked out the night scene. In Hong Kong, the "in" place changes every two months so it's interesting to note what's hot and what's about to be boarded up! When I lived in HK (1996), Lan Kwai Fong

was the place to be. It's still full and you get snatches of eye candy but somehow it's just not the same. Most of the happening places have moved on to Hollywood road from Soho (South of Hollywood Road) to No Ho (North of Hollywood Road) to as far as Sheung Wan. My favorite spot is 1/5th, which is located in Wanchai.

Next day, I had lunch with the former head of Chanel's PR for Asia and one of Hong Kong's most fashionable and best dressed women, **Bonnie Gokson**, along with the editor of the ultra successful and hip *Vogue* (Australia), *Living*, *Entertainment and Travel*, and *Apartment* (Can you believe she is the editor of four magazines!?), **Sharon Storrier Lyneham**.

After lunch we viewed Christie's auction at the Marriott Hotel. It was great to see so many people there and to have our very own art, **Amorsolo's** "Fernanda Jesus," as the focal point of the auction. My jaw literally dropped when I viewed the jewelry section. Some pieces went for as high as \$3M.

I attended a fashion show for **Jil Sander** where I got to meet the new dashing designer for the fashion house, **Milan Vukmirovic**. His F/W 2002 collection is edgier and better than anything since the time when Prada bought the house. The fashion house has lost its luster when **Jil Sander** sold her name and brand to Prada but with **Milan** in the helm, things look promising and better things may be ahead for this luxury brand.

For dinner I met with HK-based friends **Freddie and Ina Calalang-Ayala**, **Manny and Minnie Ayala** and visiting friends **Fernando and Kit Zobel**. It was nice to catch up with all of them. I had to rush off to a barbecue party, where I got to speak to a lot of HK people. Their consensus was HK has lost its sparkle, and is being replaced by Shanghai and Beijing. Singapore was actually named as the No. 1 tourist spot in Asia, a crown HK used to wear. It's still a fun place to go to but somehow the energy is different.

The next day, I returned to

DESIGNER/ p. H3



The Blind and the Beautiful

From page H1

former Marcos crony, which explains her lavish lifestyle. But lavish, my dear, doesn't translate to chic.

"Give her a break," Constance said, peering through red Alain Mikli eyeglasses. "It's been a long climb from being an au pair in Marbella to Morgan Stanley although I don't understand why she claims to have gone to Maryknoll for high school and college when she didn't."

Sometimes I wonder if it's better to be uneducated than self-taught or, worse, delusional. Although I have many friends from *sosyal* schools like Assumption and the International School, I will never deny my Christian *chungkua* school roots. There's nothing like a well-rounded yet surreal education at a Catholic Chinese school. Without that, I wouldn't be as insane as I am now.

"Well, not everyone is like you who cares about her reputation like a mother cobra cares for her young!" said Constance as she adjusted the bow of her Saint Laurent couture silk blouse. "Some are ashamed to have anything to do with the *chungkua* confederates. Remember this woman who accents her maiden name, hoping to blend into the *oye como va* crowd she hangs on to with her dear life? But then she marries this *chungkua* confederate and complains that their son has to go to Xavier, which is not Eton but it still has high standards."

Snow and kids

"Speaking of standards, have any of you been to the Poconos?" asked Muffy the mink slayer, clad in Fendi fur over a Roberto Cavalli outfit so busy that it worked on everyone's eyes in the room. I answered no but to hide my ignorance, I told her that my El Salvadorian cleaning lady in Los Angeles so sweetly took her kids there "to see snow" and that my Fedex man in New York used to go there. "I think taking your family to the Poconos is bad enough but being photographed in the Poconos and then allowing that picture to be published is a mortal sin," commented Constance. "Don't these people think that they simply do not have the social heft to make the Poconos chic?" And I thought nothing was worse than Snow City in Singapore but, from what I heard from C&M, I guess the Poconos wins hands down.

Kids have never been my favorite fashion accessory, whether for a shoot in the Poconos or Snow City or in a studio. When I was publisher at a local fashion magazine, the editor in chief had the brilliant idea of asking the children of a prominent *es que* family to pose as hip members of young society. Their mother, reputedly one of Manila's best hostesses, a '70s model of the fashion czar and of the second-tier *es que* establishment herself, saw the shoot through from concept to the finished product.

Unfortunately, despite being there all the way, Española mama wasn't exactly thrilled with the results of the shoot. What was she doing all that time? Embroidering a mantilla? She wasn't the best bred either because she treated the deputy editor (unbeknownst to her, the scion of a banking and insurance family) worse than I would treat a pimple. At one point she rudely handed the editor her things and said, "Hawakan mo nga!"

Housing

"No matter where you came from," lectured Constance with a wave of a Harry Winston-ringed finger, "you have to treat everyone with courtesy. Pimple or pimp. Now that we are on the subject of pimps, an *Ilongo*, like you, Muffy, passes himself off as a show-biz manager. He 'introduces' girls to a famous singer who has since dropped his equally famous wife."

"Not only dropped but almost destroyed," said Muffy, flashing her diamond watch against the silverware that she blinded the waiter into spilling Aqua Libra on my cashmere top. "But at least she didn't do as bad as one of our friend's sons who got drugged into sleeping with him and is now so confused about his sexuality he went back to drugs."

"This manager claims to be part of the *Bacolod Kahirup* society but he really hails from *Kahirap* society. He lives on top of a beauty parlor," continued Constance. I didn't know addresses were so important. I live in a dog house and I don't complain.

"But the biggest housing project has to be Forbes Park," chimed in Muffy. "I fail to see why Forbes Park is such a huge deal—there's a water problem for God's sake. Even B-list couples have moved into Forbes Park and they can't seem to stop talking about where they live. I really fail to see why they keep going on about how they know where everyone lives and who decorated what."

People like me wake up to see if they're still

alive by checking their pulse. These guys check the papers and society magazines.

Banking fantasy

The papers—that's where you NEVER get all the information. "Remember that bank ran (literally, there was a bank run) by a man who wears something like a dead animal on his head?" recalled Constance.

"This guy has to be either a Russian wearing a fur hat or Davy Crockett," said Muffy. She should know since fur is her passion, which puts me off really because animal suffering is my compassion.

"No—I meant that it was an awful toupee," Constance said with some irritation. "And how about his sidekick who reminds me of Tatoo on Fantasy Island? Given how they ran that bank—that's really what they were—Mr. Rourke and Tatoo on Fantasy Island." Many, including Muffy and her drag queen friends, bought into that fantasy and lost money in that bank, but they should have known better than trust in a bank with a head office in a former supermarket.

Questionable fantasy

"Don't get me started on people who did not return other people's money. Those are my absolute pet peeves," ranted a now tipsy Constance. "This guy who is practically a gigolo married this heiress."

"Ah, is that the one na every woman he dates ends up kawawa? *Di ba* one of his girlfriends can't even walk now? I feel so bad for his wife. Sayang, she was so eligible before she married him! She's puurrfect! She's beautiful, she's educated and she comes from one of the old and illustrious families," said Muffy with a sigh, as if wishing she had been born into that life.

"Their problems with their failed finance company and restaurant investment have really taken their toll. I hear her aunt had to bail them out because so many of the loans were to themselves. And her aunt really tries to preserve the family name. The star-studded restaurant they supposedly owned was owned *pala* by the bank. They even got this guy who is from one of Manila's finest families to run it for them and then dished him out," added Constance. These days, how does one distinguish from the good, the bad and the ugly?

Nightmare posing as fantasy

Sadly, the ugly abound. "I can't believe some of the biggest mistresses are also some of the oldest women in the universe!" declared Muffy. "The first one that comes to mind is this woman who had so much plastic surgery that supplying Rubbermaid has become a business she runs from her boudoir. As the mistress of a Marcos defense minister, this woman used to live in New York, waltzing around the United Nations in a hat worthy of the Royal Enclosure at Ascot and a contender for the Joan Collins 'Hat as Umbrella' award. Now she's married to someone from construction. She's also sister-in-law to one of the most famous underwear manufacturers in the world." Wow—some people can do everything! As Jay Rodriguez, one of *Inquirer's* readers, e-mailed me, "You're either born with it, can acquire it or hire PR!"

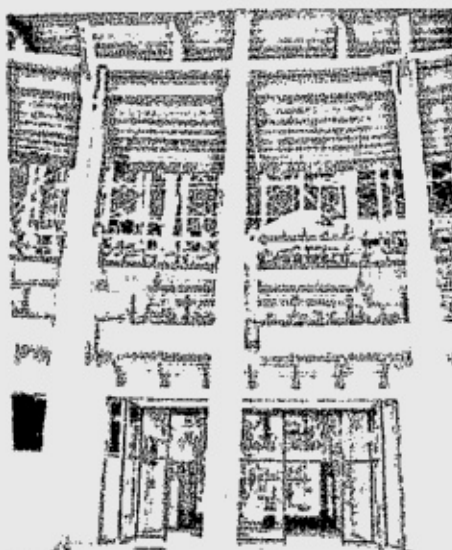
"She's nothing compared to this other gal who is beyond menopause and who still tries to fake puberty while juggling a former Press Secretary, a former Finance Secretary and a foreign doctor. Each of the men think he is her one and only and they all think she can still get pregnant," giggled Constance. Well, if Dolly the sheep can get pregnant, I don't see why this New York resident who claims to be a friend of Michael Douglas cannot.

"She dresses like Britney Spears and, to be fair, has a body for sin but a face older than Mabini's aunt. She runs around with her two sisters who are equal contenders for Miss Paraguay 1915. All three are a fashion editor's dream...for a total makeover. Although they do love clothes. One loves clothes two sizes too small, the other two sizes too big and yet another wears the right size but from the junior department. But all of them love tight buns and loose wallets," observed Constance, herself an overweight, certified couture convert.

With that, Lady Salome de Ocampo-St. John patted her Frederic Fekkai coif and in one Creed-scented (I think it was Spring Flower) swoop, picked up her fur and bid us goodbye. Mrs. Constance Brooke San Lorenzo Pendleton pressed her Hermes Rouge-d lips on my cheeks and promised she would send me a bottle of Fracas from New York.

NEVER again, I said to myself. Tita Constance tires me so. She once exhausted my mom into Makati Med. But as the saying goes, "Never say never."

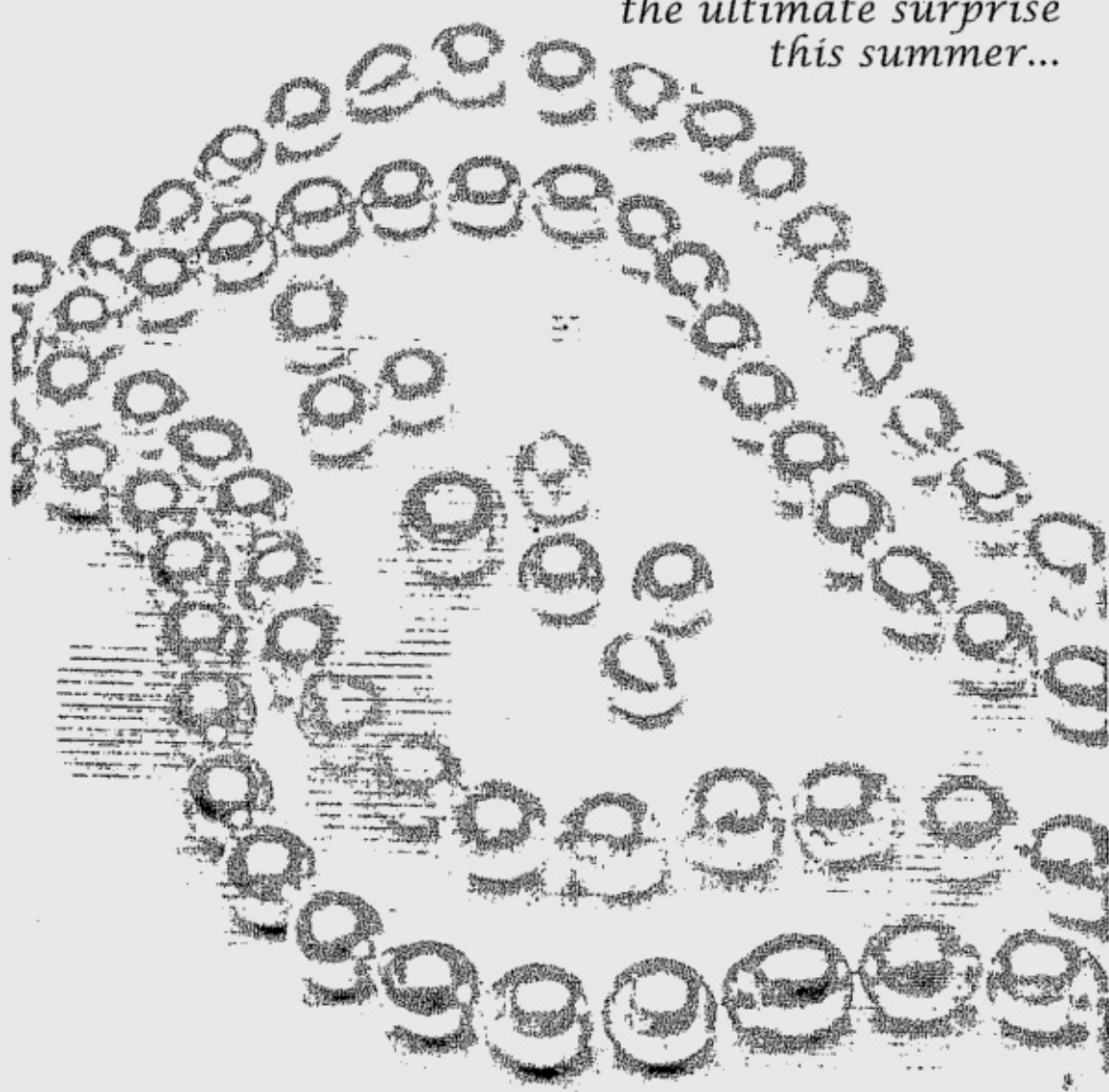
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Josh Groban

Designer living in a world of lies and make-believe?

From page H2

MUST-HAVE CD—Josh Groban. One of the most beautiful, soulful and haunting voices you will ever hear.

the auction at the Marriott particularly to find out who won the bid for the Amorsolo painting. Through a telephone bid which started at \$100,000, the painting was sold for \$330,000 to a prominent Filipino businessman whose initials are B.C. For high tea, I met up with gracious and dynamic **Virgie Ramos** and stylishly beautiful **Audrey Puckett Chiu**. Getting ready for my flight back I realized this trip was supposed to be a vacation but I was more tired than when I left. I need a va-

cation from my vacation. This trip was really my WOW experience! (I could not stop saying it!) From the Cathay flight to the Peninsula Hotel where I stayed, to meeting the editor of Vogue Australia and Jil Sander designer, to seeing the auctioned items at Christie's, I had a memorable time.

Liar! Liar!—Last Sunday, I read the story in this section on a young designer who listed his seven most memorable weddings. I was aghast when he took credit for a certain gown when, in reality (guests who attended the wedding knew), it was made by an interna-

tional designer. He only did the bridesmaids' gowns. It's sad to see where this designer is headed. He is filled with so much promise and talent but is choosing the path of illusions and deceit.

This is not the first time he has done this. Speaking to other members of the press and friends, this seems to be nothing new; only the degree of illusions and lies varies.

Because of his ambition and truly wild imagination, he has crossed and betrayed most of the people who wanted to help him. I hope he gets his act together and wises up.



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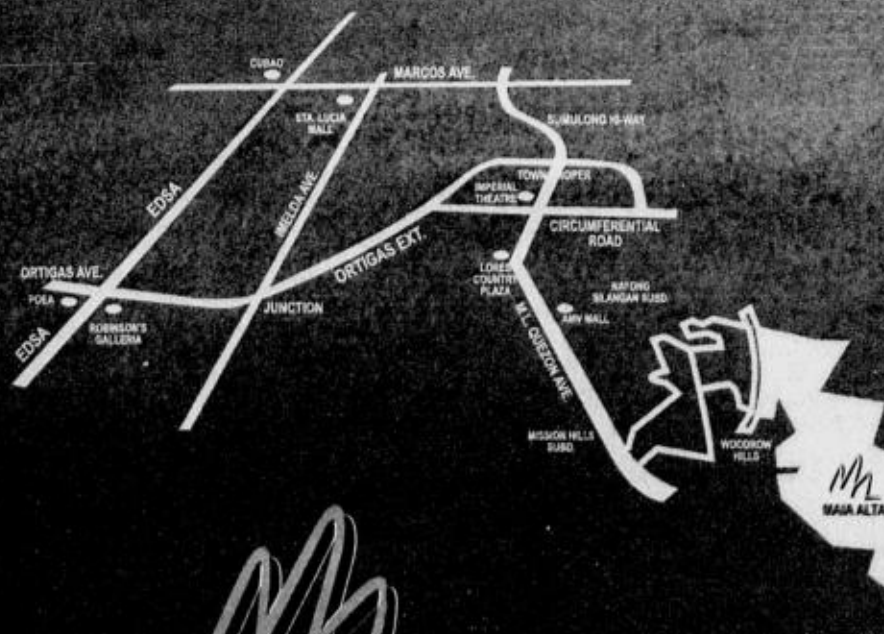
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 Email Address: cbmserve@info.com.ph

URGENT HIRING!!!

A NEWLY OPENED OFFICE AT GALLERIA CORPORATE CENTER
 IS IN NEED OF DYNAMIC MEN AND WOMEN
 FOR OUR EXPANSION PROGRAM...

If you are:

- College graduates with at least 4-year course in reputable schools and universities
- At least 21-38 years of age
- Good command in English or Chinese Language
- Ready to undergo comprehensive company training and can work at once

Benefits:

- A STARTING PAY OF ABOVE AVERAGE INCOME
- Company sponsored travels (here and abroad)
- Career growth with automatic promotion system

INTERVIEW SCHEDULES:

May 6, 7, 8 & 9, 2002
 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 At Suite 2102 - 21st Floor Galleria Corporate Center, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City.

ONLY APPLICANTS IN PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE

Will be interviewed, with 2 pcs. (2x2) pictures and Resumé
 FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS.

(PRESENTLY EMPLOYED / ENROLL NEED NOT APPLY)

A YOUNG AND DYNAMIC COMPANY

Engaged in cosmetic equipment sales is looking for:

ONE (1) MARKETING MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Above thirty (30) years old
- With marketing and sales experience
- Reliable and dependable
- College graduate of a reputable school

Please send resumé at

Unit 717 City and Land Megaplaza
 ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road
 Ortigas Center, Pasig City
 Telefax: 687-2695
 Telephone: 688-8422 (Contact: Anna)

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

SENIOR ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT**Reporting Arrangements:**

The position reports to Control Officer, Investments, Borrowings, SRP, and Bank Reconciliation Section, Accounting Division, Controller's Department.

Description of Responsibilities:

The position undertakes a variety of specialized clerical accounting duties. Specific responsibilities include:

- contributing in the preparation of financial statements, accounting and other reports under the supervision of a senior support staff, ensuring that reported amounts are consistent with control accounts and produced in a timely and accurate manner; and accounting reports are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- reviewing and identifying computer requirements for effective and efficient operation, ensuring the accuracy and reliability of systems, initiating changes to existing systems and coordinating the needs of the work area with OIST through the coordinating officer in charge;
- maintaining and ensuring appropriate, adequate and timely controls in the preparation of accounting data, processing of transactions, and preparation of reports; recommending changes and improvements as required to ensure correct, complete and timely accounting;
- preparing reconciliations of control, banks, security custody and other accounts; undertaking initial investigation of discrepancies for review by supervising staff;
- processing transactions through the preparation of appropriate disbursement, collection or journal vouchers or other relevant documentation;
- reviewing and verifying the accuracy, consistency and propriety of supporting documents for all claims, payments and other accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices, established procedures and guidelines;
- reviewing and verifying the accuracy, consistency and propriety of supporting documents for all claims, payments and other accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices, established procedures and guidelines; and
- performing any other assignments as required, including the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisors' review.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a four-year college degree in business administration, major in accounting, with a CPA designation;
- more than 4 years experience in accounting preferably in a computerized environment of a large organization;
- experience in treasury accounting and good understanding in investment and funding instruments;
- experience in a system implementation;
- proficiency with MS Word, MS Excel, and MS Powerpoint, and accounting related software, and in the use of computer databases to input and extract information, and to generate reports;
- good understanding of accounting policies, practices and systems, as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- good command of written and spoken English;
- good understanding of the interactions between different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of the relevant areas prevalent in a multilateral institution;
- systematic and analytical skills, and strong numerical ability, with great attention to detail;
- good understanding of basic general accounting concepts and principles, and the application thereof;
- good knowledge of the accounting system and its interfaces with other systems and work areas prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- good interpersonal skills and ability to provide feedback to subordinate support staff; and
- ability to plan schedules in order to meet deadlines.

Established in 1986 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit <http://www.adb.org>.

Send CV/resume and cover letter by fax, mail or e-mail. An online form is available at <http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp>.

Quote Ref. No. 02-08 and submit application by 10 May 2002 to:

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 : HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
 Fax: (63-2) 636-2560 : ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
 E-mail: hr-jobs@adb.org : P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

An established group of companies seek a dynamic aggressive individual to fill the position of:

COLLECTION MANAGER

- Graduate of a 4-year college course in Accounting, Finance or Business Management
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate, preferably Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint
- Strong interpersonal skills, mature, and not below 35 years old
- Previous experience in collection and finance management

The successful applicant shall receive an annual compensation package circa Php600,000 exclusive of benefits. Interested parties may send their resumé with 2x2 photo, transcript of records to:

Box KA-014-02-CS

c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer

Classified Ads Division

G/F Trinity Bldg., #636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
 Ermita, Manila

Email: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
 (Subject: CS)

JOIN THE PIONEER AND THE LEADER

We are a stable company that has been in existence for the past five decades. We are looking for an individual who is professional, hardworking, dedicated and willing to grow with us.

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

- Must be at least forty (40) years old
- College graduate with a degree in Law or Psychology
- Computer literate
- Well-versed and have extensive experience in all facets of personnel management, with emphasis on recruitment and hiring, 201-file management and benefits administration

An attractive compensation package and other fringe benefits await qualified applicants.

Please send your comprehensive resumé with your latest colored passport size picture to:

Director of Administration
Box KA-016-02-FI

c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer

Classified Ads Division

G/F Trinity Bldg., #636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
 Ermita, Manila

Email: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
 (Subject: FI)

A leading transport Company is **URGENTLY** in need of a dynamic assertive and mature professional to occupy the position of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- At least 2 years experience in Marketing and related services, Shipping experience is an advantage,
- Knowledge in ocean or air transport,
- Computer literate and willing to work hard,
- Personable and proficient in oral and written communications

Attractive compensation package awaits qualified applicants

All qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé with photo, telephone numbers & other credentials to:

The Personnel Department



mof company (subic), inc.
 6th Floor, 2232 CTC Building,
 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

US A-E firm is in need of:

SENIOR SOILS/ MATERIALS EXPERT

Must be a registered civil engineer. A higher post-graduate qualification in soil mechanics or geotechnical work should be an advantage.

He must have at least 15 years experience especially in a developing country involved in internationally financed projects for roads and highways (IBRD, ADB, JICA, etc.) - field investigation for material sources, geotechnical investigations, earthwork design, managing materials and quality control of site work.

Computer literate.

Fluent in written and spoken English.

Submit detailed resumé to:

LYON ASSOCIATES, INC.

9th Floor, Ramon Magsaysay Center
 1680 Roxas Blvd., Manila

or

laipi@mozcom.com

NEW YORK COMPANY NEEDS MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Has good command of the English language both oral and written
- Knowledgeable in SQL/SQL statements, Visual Basic and MS Access
- Proficient in MS Office applications
- Graduate of UP, Ateneo, La Salle an advantage

TELEMARKETER

- College graduate, 20-25 years old
- Excellent communication skills
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekends)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Fresh graduates welcome

Mail your resumé with picture at

P.O. Box 892 Dasmarinas Village, Makati City
 or e-mail resumé to hrd@pinoysearch.com or fax to 729-0160

ZAMBRANO & GRUBA

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Applications are being accepted for the following positions, with the indicative minimum requirements:

1 ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

- At least two (2) years work experience in a law office
- Experience in Tax or Corporate Law practice is an advantage

2 ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

- Passed the Bar Exams on Y2001
- Preferably a graduate of an accounting or a business course and with prior work experience

Resumés should be addressed and hand delivered to:

The Office Manager

27/F, 88 Corporate Center
 Sedeño Street, Salcedo Village
 Makati City

Our team needs a gregarious female individual who ticks at least 6 of the following!!!

- Are you hip?
- Are you cool?
- Are you aware of what's going on around you?
- Are you interested in HIV/AIDS, STDs and other reproductive health issues?
- Are you open-minded?
- Do you enjoy interacting with people from all walks of life?
- Are you not more than 25 years of age?
- With at least two years of college education.

FRENZY Mobile Outreach Team Project, a youth intervention project is in need of a talented, young and dynamic FEMALE individual on or before **May 10, 2002**.

If you feel you are qualified kindly submit your resumé with your most recent 2x2 colored picture to Ms. Sally or Mr. Dennis at:

DKT Philippines, Inc.

Suite 801 The Linden Suites
 No. 37 San Miguel Avenue,
 Ortigas Center, Pasig City



ACES, INC.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- Graduate of Marketing course or any Business related course
- Male/female, 22-35 years old
- Possesses excellent written & oral communication skills
- Preferably can speak / write Mandarin / Cantonese
- Minimum of 1 year work experience in MARKETING
- Innovative in meeting customer requirements

RM. 301/302 EXECUTIVE BLDG. CENTRE,
 GIL PUYAT AVE. COR. MAKATI AVE., MAKATI CITY
 TEL. #8952850/8952802/8970927 FAX# 8996111

BRING REQUIREMENTS: SSS#, TIN#, NBI & BRGY. CLEARANCE; PICTURE (2x2)

Accountants

Our clients, all reputable domestic firms need experienced Accountants.

Those who are in their early 20's to mid 30's with above average scholastic records, proficient in word or excel, will be the ideal candidates.

As the need to fill in the positions are urgent, interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.

Unit 2106, 88 Corporate Center Sedeño Street,
 Salcedo Village, Makati City
 Telephone No. 813-1058
 Facsimile No. 819-0485

TEACH MATH IN THE USA

The Visiting International Faculty Program (VIF) offers educators the life-changing experience of teaching in another country. Since 1987, thousands of teachers have participated in the Program. Their lives - and the lives of more than half-a-million of their students - have been transformed through culture exchange.

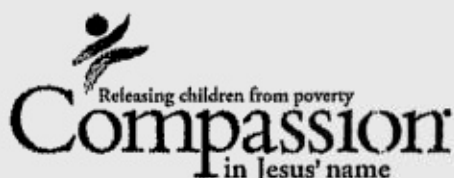
VIF matches qualified applicants with math positions in select primary and secondary schools. We offer positions in such states as Colorado, Georgia, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

Compensation includes a competitive salary and benefits package, round-trip travel, and a comprehensive orientation. VIF educators must be proficient in English, have at least two years of teaching experience, hold a university degree, possess a driver's license, and have at least two years of driving experience.

For more information and online application, please visit our Web site at: www.vifprogram.com

VIF is an officially recognized exchange program. Not all subject areas available in all locations.





Compassion - International Philippine Office

a Christian child development organization,
invite applicants for the position of:

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

provides leadership and management of the Program Department that is tasked to implement Compassion's sponsorship program and other child development projects and activities: supervises overall program planning, implementation, innovation, training, monitoring and evaluation.

- Must be an Evangelical born-again Christian, with strong values of integrity, servant leadership, teamwork and excellence.
- Expertise in holistic child development, strategic management and at least 3-year leadership experience in development work, preferably in holistic child development.
- Proven competence in leadership and development of staff who will implement child development programs.
- Preference for candidates with a Masteral degree or post-graduate course units in management/social/behavioral sciences.

SENIOR PROGRAM FACILIOR (SPF)

serves as Program Officer of Compassion's child development projects, and acts as Team Leader of other Program Officers in the same geographical area.

- Must be an evangelical born-again Christian, with strong values of integrity, servant leadership, teamwork and excellence.
- 3-5 years experience in holistic child development ministry.
- Competence in program management, facilitation skills, staff supervision, strategic planning, proposal writing, oral and written communication skills.

PROGRAM TRAINING SPECIALIST (PTS)

responsible for designing and implementing contextually appropriate training to enhance program management capability of Compassion's local church partners. Also responsible for providing technical support and coaching for Program Officers/Facilitators in program quality, monitoring and evaluation.

- Must be an evangelical born-again Christian, with strong values of integrity, servant leadership, teamwork and excellence.
- 3-5 years experience in holistic child development ministry.
- Competence in conceptualization and development of training and capacity building programs.
- Competence in project cycle, facilitation and coaching skills, program quality improvement, participatory monitoring and evaluation.

Qualified candidates may send formal application for employment with attached recent 2x2 picture, comprehensive resumé detailing work and, salary history, and certificate of employment not later than **May 10, 2002**.

Only short listed applicants will be scheduled for examination and interview.

The Human Resource Specialist
Compassion International Philippine Office
Second Floor, 99 E & L Building
Roces Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 373-30-21 up to 23

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

ASSOCIATE ACCOUNTING ANALYST

Reporting Arrangements:

The position reports to Control Officer, Investments, Borrowings, SRP, and Bank Reconciliation Section, Accounting Division, Controller's Department.

Description of Responsibilities:

- The position is responsible for supervising and coordinating the administrative and processing activities in a specialized work area within the accounting function of ADB specifically in the accounting of investment and borrowings together with related derivative transactions: carrying out administrative functions, as required; establishing and maintaining related accounting records and sound accounting/internal controls; preparing accounting and other reports; and as relevant, preparing financial statements and related reports in a timely manner. Specific responsibilities include:
- supervising and reviewing the work of subordinate staff in controlling, processing, and recording data; preparing reports; completing work timely and in conformity with policies, practices, and procedures; providing technical and procedural guidelines to subordinate support staff;
 - preparing and contributing in the preparation of financial statements and other reports as required by coordinating data collection, ensuring reported amounts agree with control accounts; conducting required analysis, and ensuring that the draft statement/report is produced in a timely and accurate manner. In the case of accounting reports, ensuring that they are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - reviewing, analyzing, and identifying computer requirements for effective and efficient operation; ensuring the accuracy and reliability of systems; initiating changes and revisions to existing systems, and coordinating the needs of the work area with OIST through the coordinating officer in charge;
 - establishing, maintaining, and ensuring appropriate, adequate and timely controls in the preparation of accounting data, processing of transactions and preparation of reports; recommending changes and improvements as required to ensure correct, complete and timely accounting in compliance with applicable policies, practices, and generally accepted accounting principles; monitoring all accounts subject to reconciliation, ensuring all statements/reports are received and reconciled on a timely basis; preparing and verifying, as appropriate, reconciliation reports of control, banks, security custody and other accounts; undertaking initial investigation of discrepancies for review by supervising staff; compiling, analyzing, and reviewing financial and accounting data as basis for the preparation of reports; reviewing the accuracy, consistency, and propriety of supporting documentation for all accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices, established procedures, and guidelines;
 - coordinating and providing required information in accordance with established procedures, in a timely manner;
 - actively participating in defining requirements under treasury risk management system; and
 - performing any other assignments as required including the preparation of draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisor's review.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a four-year college degree in business administration, major in Accounting; a CPA designation;
- at least seven years accounting experience, preferably in a computerized environment with some supervisory role, in a large organization;
- experience in treasury accounting, related internal control and thorough understanding in investment and funding instruments including related derivative instruments;
- experience in computer application implementation;
- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills, and ability to provide feedback to subordinate support staff;
- proficiency in MS Word, MS Excel, and MS Powerpoint, and accounting related software, and in the use of computer databases to input and extract information, and to generate standard and ad hoc reports;
- good understanding of accounting policies, practices and systems, as well as general policies, procedures, guidelines and reporting requirements prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- excellent oral and written skills in English
- good understanding of the interactions between different work areas and relevant work flows and their purpose, as well as business knowledge of relevant areas in a multilateral institution to enable accounting concepts to be applied appropriately;
- analytical, systematic and strong numerical skills and great attention to detail;
- good knowledge of Accounting system and its interfaces with other systems and work areas prevalent in multilateral institutions;
- good understanding of general accounting concepts and principles, and the application thereof; and
- ability to plan and coordinate schedules and requirements in order to meet deadlines.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit <http://www.adb.org>.

Send CV/resume and cover letter by fax, mail or e-mail. An online form is available at <http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp>.

Quote Ref. No. 02-06 and submit application by 10 May 2002 to:

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
E-mail: sa-jobs@adb.org P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.



The Country's First and Only Child-Oriented
Nature, Sports, and Adventure Club Complex

The director of Marketing is in search of highly motivated individuals to clearly communicate KidzWorld's vision, process the exclusive club membership sales with utmost professionalism and fulfill its productivity requirements with a sense of urgency.

KidzWorld is looking to hire the best candidates to fill the vacancies for:

Three (3) Sales Managers

Qualifications:

- College degree earned from a reputable university
- Previous sales experience, preferably a senior account executive or sales representative for a predominantly service-bent multi-national corporation, looking for a greater opportunity
- Good command of the English language, oral and written
- Ability to deal with movers and shakers of industries
- Teachable and accountable
- Willingness to work within a proven system
- Ability to meet deadlines and promptly submit reports
- Computer Skills

Compensation:

- Basic salary
- Attractive commission per sale, no production ceiling
- Shared transportation
- Sales incentives

The Freelance Sales Directors is in need of the best candidates to fill the vacancies for:

Account Executives

Qualifications:

- College degree, preferably in the field of marketing or communications
- Good communication skills [oral & written]
- Prefer to work on field
- Pleasing personality
- Dependent and can work under pressure

KIDZWORLD Theme Parks, Amusement, and Recreational Club, Inc.
83 Boni Serrano Avenue (formerly Santolan), Quezon City, Philippines, 1111
Phone: [632] 721-2167 / 721-3509 fax: [632] 727-9280
Email: fun@kidzworld.com.ph

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia & the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

ASSOCIATE SYSTEMS ANALYST

Reporting Arrangements:

The position reports to Principal Information Systems and Technology Specialist, Office of Information Systems and Technology.

Description of Responsibilities:

- The position will participate in the design, development, implementation and maintenance of medium- to large-scale information systems involving low to medium technical complexity under the supervision of a Principal Information Systems and Technology Specialist and a Computer Systems Analyst. Specific responsibilities include:
- assisting in systems planning and strategy formulation activities;
 - conducting Functional Needs Assessments for medium- to large-scale information systems;
 - designing and preparing detailed system/program specification for assigned application systems;
 - ensuring that applications are designed, documented and implemented in accordance with industry standards, system specifications and ADB standards;
 - developing and implementing test plans and procedures for assigned systems; and
 - developing application conversion and coordinating implementation with users.

Selection Criteria:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a four year college degree in Computer Science, Physics, Mathematics, Engineering or related areas;
- at least seven years experience in systems analysis and design;
- proficiency in either (i) Oracle applications implementation and maintenance as well as design, development and implementation of extensions and custom applications using Oracle Development tools; or (ii) Lotus Notes R5 applications implementation and maintenance as well as design, development and implementation of extensions and custom applications on using Domino, would be preferred;
- excellent command of oral and written communication skills in English; and
- understanding of current office management technologies (MS Office, MS Project, Lotus Notes etc).

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its support staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management. For further information, visit <http://www.adb.org>.

Send CV/resume and cover letter by fax, mail or e-mail. An online form is available at <http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp>.

Quote Ref. No. 02-11 and submit application by 10 May 2002 to:

Tel: (63-2) 632-4444 HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
Fax: (63-2) 636-2550 ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
E-mail: sa-jobs@adb.org P.O. BOX 789, 0980 MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Notre Dame of Greater Manila

Madre Ignacia Avenue Grace Park, Caloocan City 1400

NOTRE DAME OF GREATER MANILA

is in need of experienced, dynamic, creative, innovative, knowledgeable and preferably licensed:

GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS (BSEED)

to teach Science, Math, Computer and Work Education, Arts.

ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN INSTRUCTOR

(BSECE or Electronic Technician Course)
with experience as an electronic technician.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN INSTRUCTOR/TRAINER

(BS in Industrial Education or Information Technology)
with experience as computer technician.

OFFICE SECRETARY

(Bachelor's Degree Holder)
with good command of the English language (oral and written)
and computer literate.

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING:

- Letter of application (handwritten)
- Resumé
- (2) Recommendation letters from former employers
- 2x2 picture

NISSAN NORTH EDSA BALINTAWAK

Gives you the chance to:

- Be a part of the country's most complete Nissan Dealer.
- Travel abroad for FREE!
- High commission package.

We need the ff: for immediate placement:

FLEET OFFICERS/SALES PROFESSIONALS

Qualifications:

- ☑ Male or Female with above average intelligence.
- ☑ With pleasing personality, 20 to 32 years old
- ☑ Good interpersonal and communication skills.
- ☑ With network communication.
- ☑ Knowledge of chinese language is an advantage.
- ☑ Driving skills an advantage.

INSURANCE COORDINATOR

- ☑ Preferably college graduate / Female
- ☑ With pleasing personality
- ☑ With experience in Auto Insurance
- ☑ Proficient in both oral & written communication skills.

Apply in person with your resumé @
1174 EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 330-5331 to 50 loc. 216



ST. MARY OF THE WOODS SCHOOL

is accepting applications for the following positions:

- **GRADE SCHOOL TEACHERS**
- **HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS**
- **COMPUTER TEACHERS**
- **SPECIAL PROGRAMS TEACHERS**
- **ACCOUNTANTS** (for schools located in Makati City and San Miguel, Bulacan)
- **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES** (1 Male & 1 Female)

Those interested may apply in person or send/fax their
resumé, transcript of records and recent ID photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR
1273 Batangas oor. Faraday Streets, Makati City
844-1934 / 729-7674 / 729-7675 / 844-1615
TELEFAX NO. 815-1601

E-mail: stmary@pacific.net.ph * stmary.admin@pacific.net.ph
marcial@pacific.net.ph



A new Travel Agency with plans to set-up branches in key cities in the Phils. and some parts of USA and Canada is in immediate need of the following:

1 RESERVATION OFFICER

1 MARKETING/BUSINESS DEV'T. OFFICER

- ☑ Female, not more than 35 years old, at least 1 year exp. in the travel business
- ☑ Preferably with existing clients (groups & individuals) and network of Sub-agents
- ☑ With potential to become Operations Manager or Branch Manager
- ☑ Customer oriented; with excellent people and org. skills
- ☑ Articulate, results-oriented, honest and hardworking

Competitive salaries, performance based incentives and career growth await successful applicants. Interested parties may apply in person or send their resumé with picture and transcript of records to:

Suite 229 Cityland Pioneer Bldg.,
Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City
Attention: Ms. Gia Martin (Tel. No. 747-0502)

A CALL CENTER SERVICES CO.

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT:

- Telemarketers - To handle calls to customers and clients.
- Off-site Based Personnel
 - Employed Male/Female - willing to work on weekends
 - Unemployed Male/Female - must be willing to work home based
 - Students - willing to work part-time or full-time
- Field Collection Staff - To handle field negotiations for collection of accounts. Must know how to drive four/two wheel vehicles.

If you are fluent in English/Tagalog, hardworking, honest and dedicated, join us. We offer highly competitive compensation package with incentives and the opportunity to grow.

APPLY IN PERSON WITH BIODATA, PASSPORT PICTURES AND REFERENCES.

Head Office:
10th Floor, One San Miguel Avenue Tower
Shaw Boulevard cor. San Miguel Avenue,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Raffles

Fine Arts

Raffles Fine Arts is the associate gallery of the Tomlinson Collection, the leading specialist in oriental works of arts in Southeast Asia. Its new branch in the Philippines is inviting applicants for the position of:

Assistant Gallery Manager

- Female, single, between 24-30 years old;
- Fluent in written and spoken English;
- Preferably with experience in sales and marketing
- Willing to work 6 days a week and during weekends;
- Graduate of a highly reputable university.

We offer a highly competitive package, opportunities to travel abroad, and highly specialized training for this position.

Submit your resumé with current passport photo to:
58 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air Village, Makati City
Tel/Fax: 899-1002



Suarez & Sons, Inc.

Engraving - Stamping

is in immediate need of

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- 18 - 25 yrs. old Male / Female.
- College Graduate / College level.
- With or without experience.
- Self-motivated, ambitious, hardworking, career oriented & with leadership qualities.
- Out-spoken and results oriented.
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills.
- Honest and with good moral character.
- With pleasing personality.
- Willing to travel / Aggressive / Willing to sell.

Pls. bring your resumé with latest 2 x 2 picture at:
282 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City
(Bet. D. Tuazon and Cordillera St.)

IMMEDIATE HIRING!

JUNIOR MANAGERS

M / F, graduate from Ateneo, DLSU, UP, UST, AMA, Mapua, St. Paul, St. Scholastica, Adamson, CEU, FEU, UE, PSBA, PUP, Lyceum, Letran, PWU, PCU, PNU & Other universities/colleges.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Male / Female, 20-45 years old

Graduate of any course, licensed or non-licensed
Computer Literate, with or without working experience

New GRADUATES & Ex-OFW's may also apply

Note: All qualified candidates will be given a training for the position assigned. Interested applicants may apply personally with comprehensive resume, original credentials & 2x2 photo at:

Unit 3 G/F, 235-C Mercan Bldg., EDSA Ext. Pasay City
(walking distance from MRT/LRT EDSA Station going to Roxas Blvd.
near Savers Square Dept. Store, beside Allied Bank & Jansine)

Interview: Mon - Fri, 8:00am - 4:00pm, May 06 - May 17, 2002

LOOK FOR : MR. GRAFIL

E-mail: gsm_grafil@yahoo.com

- clip this ad upon applying -



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JOBZ

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JOBMarket

Employment Expo 2002 April 22 to 24, 2002 Glorietta Activity Center

A job fair to remember

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

A LONG queue forming up outside the Glorietta entrance even before the mall has opened. People who can't wait to get inside to watch the latest blockbuster movie?

Hardly. The thousands that flocked to the Glorietta Activity Center starting April 22 weren't after a few hours of entertainment, but for the chance to jumpstart their career and be hired by some of the country's best firms.

From April 22 to 24, JOBZ Employment Expo 2002 became the meeting ground for over 100 of the country's leading companies and thousands of job seekers -- many of them fresh graduates seeking to land that all-important first job. The three-day career recruitment expo was a joint effort of the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Job Market and INQ7.net's JobMarket Online.

How useful was the expo to job seekers in their quest for that right career move?

"It's organized," Theresa Alabanza said, when asked what she thought of JOBZ Employment Expo 2002. "Through job fairs, they (job seekers) have more options in choosing a job that's really suited to them."

Alabanza recently graduated from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) with a degree in elementary education.

"I'm into communication and dealing with other people. Right now, I don't want to teach yet. I want to experience something outside school," Alabanza said when asked what kind of job she wanted.

Her friend, Joyce Cupcupin, who is already employed but who accompanied Alabanza, agreed that a job fair offers more opportunities to job seekers.

"I think it's a big help," Cupcupin said.

At the expo, job seekers were not only able to submit copies of their resumé to different companies but also had the chance to post these on the Web by logging on to JobMarket Online at www.jobmarketonline.com.

Many expo attendees patiently waited for their turn to use one of the 10 Compaq PCs at the INQ7.net corner for the free online job applications.

Alabanza noted that the Internet really helps make the process easier for job applicants.

"It's a lot more convenient because you can submit via the Internet. Even if you don't have a ready resumé, you can use the online form and submit a resumé through the Internet," Alabanza said.

In fact, even as companies accepted applications and even conducted job interviews at the expo, JobMarket Online advertisers could also browse the database of job applicants through the site's Resumé Reserve service.

The Resumé Reserve online form consists of four parts: personal information, educational attainment, work experience and career preference. For job seekers, posting online offers a competitive advantage because these resúmes will be viewed by the country's top 1,000 corporations. Meanwhile, companies enjoy continuing access to an updated database of high-potential and computer-literate job applicants.

Rico Peña, a biology graduate from UST, agreed that the presence of computers was a big plus.

"The job fair is a big help because instead of going to the company, you can just submit your resúmes here," Peña added.

Moreover, many of the job seekers also took advantage of JobMarket Online's mobile service called INQ7 JOBS. To access the latest job openings, job seekers simply had to text the keyword INQ7 JOBS to 211 for Smart subscribers and 2333 for Globe subscribers.

Through People At Work, the Inquirer and INQ7.net also regularly offer job seekers important advice on career development from people who are already among the gainfully employed. People At Work is regularly updated in JobMarket Online and comes out on print every Wednesday in the Inquirer.

In fact, the expo also featured free seminars offering advice on career and personality development. For example, Inquirer human resources development head Chito San Mateo conducted a seminar on "Coping Skills to Build Personal Power and Control."

True, the local job market has become even more competitive in these tough times. But with job fairs like JOBZ Employment Expo 2002 and the latest technology, job seekers can have more opportunities to find the right career.

The JOB MARKET team



The highlights of the event...



Exhibitors



sunday

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May 5, 2002

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL

magazine

dominic Ochoa, Seriously

By Leah Salterio
Photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

MORE than a month after his best friend Rico Yan died, actor Dominic Ochoa continues to grieve. He gets even more emotional in the face of persistent rumors about the "real" cause of Rico's death.

Rico, 27, died of acute pancreatitis or *bangungot* on March 29 at the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, where the two hied off for a Holy Week vacation with three other friends. It was Dominic who found Rico lifeless in bed, a scene he'd like to erase from his memory forever.

There are those who blame Dominic for Rico's demise. Talk has it that he influenced Rico to take Ecstasy pills. Showbiz talk show host Rosanna Roces said as much on national television, recklessly accusing Dominic of buying Ecstasy from a certain supplier in Cubao, Quezon City, before that fateful trip to Palawan. Even Dominic's girlfriend, Janna Victoria, was not spared and was said to have been taking uppers as well.

Through it all, Dominic has opted to stay quiet.

"I don't need to explain to anyone, although I may have to give a statement to clear my name," says the 28-year-old actor. "People are entitled to their own opinion. What's important is I know the truth, who's lying and who wants to appear clean before the public."

To end speculations, Dominic says he is willing to undergo a drug test. "I can challenge them to undergo the same test and we'll see whose blood comes out the dirtiest," he says. "But what for? I don't want to make them happy. That's stooping to their level. I have proof where I was on Monday before we left for Palawan. Rico and I shopped at Rockwell and I have credit card receipts to prove that."

Dealing with the nasty rumors has been a learning experience for him, says Dominic, who adds that he has never encountered such experience before. "In this business, you can't trust anyone. There are people who are really out to use you."

The talks have been blown out of proportion, he says, and have affected even his family. "My dad told me I don't deserve this business," says Dominic. "I got a good education only to be treated like this? No one has the right to treat my family this way, but since we chose to be in show business, we have to accept the negative side. I know it's not always a bed of roses."

If Rico were alive today, Dominic believes his best friend wouldn't have endured the ruthless talk. The two became close after they were tapped to form the now-popular triumvirate with Marvin Agustin. The trio first joined ABS-CBN's daily noontime show, "Magandang Tanghali Bayan (MTB)," and were eventually given their own weekly program, "Whattamen," which airs on Wednesdays.

"Ours was a long-term friendship," muses Dominic. "We had many plans, Rico, Marvin and I." Particularly painful for him was recalling the days before Holy Week. "We were together almost everyday, taping for the Lenten episode of 'MTB.' Rico was kind of depressed at that time, and hurting from all the talk that he had beaten up (former girlfriend) Claudine (Barretto)," Dominic reveals. "They're not true," he adds.

Dominic laments how some people in the movie industry can be so heartless as to spread painful rumors about Rico. "I thought they were only after the money. But those heartless souls have no conscience. I hope they realize how hard it is to lose someone who is close to you."

Rico would have wanted him to fight back and answer the allegations against them, says Dominic. "I think that's what Rico wants to tell me now. 'Pare, if they tried to destroy me before, don't let them do that to you now.' But still, I'll let God have His way. I believe in karma. Other people might laugh at me and consider me a loser, but I'd like to see the day when I'll have the last laugh."

Dominic wants to remember Rico as someone who is just around, someone who is simply a phone call away. "I talk to him as if he's just beside me. When I'm at ABS-CBN and I see his picture, I go, 'O, kumusta ka na, pare?' In my mind he's gone forever, but in my heart, he's still here."

Nobody can replace his best friend, says Dominic. "We shared the same interests—cars, girls, bikes, guns, shopping. Our age gap was only one year."

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After the controversial death of his best friend Rico Yan and its gossip-plagued aftermath, Dominic Ochoa is moving on, focusing instead on family and career.

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Businesswatch

By Doris Dumlaog

Not Quite Beaten

Victim or sore loser?

Things might have quieted down a bit at the Philippine Stock Exchange, but insiders are still whispering about how Robert Coyiuto, Jr. — veteran stock broker, insurer and luxury car dealer — lost the top PSE post to arch rival Vivian Yuchengco in a highly contested election. After all, Coyiuto's slate won five out of the seven seats in the brokers' polls.

It was a case of sheer betrayal, says Coyiuto. "My advice to anyone who wants to run for PSE chair is not to follow my footsteps," he says. "But I don't feel bitter about it. I'm just laughing it off now." He adds that the recent PSE election was a test of character and taught him to be more cautious of people's real intentions.

The Trojan horse, Coyiuto maintains, are the eight non-broker directors in the board who were adopted as a common candidate by the opposing slates. Under the new securities law, majority of the PSE's 15 board seats must be controlled by non-brokers who are mandated to act as independent representatives from the private sector, one of the new safeguards included by lawmakers to prevent another BW price manipulation scandal. This provision guarantees that the ball is in the court of the non-brokers.

Coyiuto had expected that the non-brokers would be

elected through balloting, as the broker representatives always were in previous years. It was, however, the first time that the PSE shareholders, which demutualized or converted itself into a stock corporation only last August, were to elect all the eight non-brokers. In short, the PSE was still experimenting on how to deal with the election of the non-brokers.

Coyiuto says his biggest regret was that he agreed to a compromise that the non-brokers would no longer be subjected to an election, and that the two slates would instead adopt a set of eight common non-broker candidates "to spare the non-brokers from the shame of losing" should they run like regular candidates.

The rest was history. When the newly elected board members met among themselves to elect the chair, Coyiuto lost to Yuchengco by a vote of 8-7, mainly through the votes cast by non-broker directors. Belatedly, Coyiuto admits his strategic mistake. He had presumed that like in previous annual elections, the non-brokers would abstain from voting the chair. "I thought they would stay neutral. Maybe I'm too



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

He lost the top post at the Philippine Stock Exchange to bitter rival Vivian Yuchengco, but stockbroker, car dealer and insurance executive Robert Coyiuto, Jr. isn't licking his wounds. The bruising battle has been a learning experience and he's determined to make the most of it

nila Stock Exchange. He was also the first president of the unified PSE and became its chair in 1994. After his term, Coyiuto remained active as PSE director and chair of the PSE's listing committee.

Stock brokerage is just one of his business interests. Coyiuto is also chair of Prudential Guarantee & Assurance Inc. and chair of PGA Cars Inc., the sole importer and distributor of Porsche. He is likewise a dealer of BMW and Nissan cars.

"Being a car dealer is like dealing with 184 members of the PSE. Every small mistake that you commit will always have an impact later," he says.

It was as president of Oriental Petroleum & Mineral Corp. that Coyiuto had his first brush with Yuchengco's group who, according to Coyiuto supporter lawyer Felipe Antonio Remollo, wanted to take over Oriental Petroleum and its promising exploration projects. The scheme, which involved RCBC, the bank controlled by Vivian's uncle, taipan Alfonso Yuchengco, was however thwarted, Remollo says. Coyiuto has since cemented his foothold in the company.

Coyiuto has had his share of ugly controversies in the PSE. He was accused of manipulating former PSE president Garcia to exert pressure on Metro Pacific Corp. chair Manuel Pangilinan on the Fort Bonifacio relocation issue. Worse, he was rumored to have been hitting hard on the Metro Pacific group because he was asking for certain lucrative insurance deals.

Years ago, MPC had pledged to donate to PSE a piece of property within the Fort Bonifacio Global City, and to construct a building that was to become the PSE's new headquarters and unified trading floor by the year 2004. At the time that the offer was made, several groups, including the Ayala and the SM group, submitted alternative offers, but the PSE approved the Fort Bonifacio deal instead.

As such, Coyiuto and Garcia pressured Pangilinan's group to start the construction of the building last year so it would be ready by 2004 as originally planned. But the real estate slump hit the MPC group hard and it sought to renegotiate the terms of the deal. In the midst of all these, Garcia was fired by the previous PSE board chaired by Felipe Yap over a heated word war with Pangilinan.

"I was not manipulating Mr. Garcia," denies Coyiuto. "I've always been for people who are being mistreated and I think (Garcia) was unceremoniously dismissed. He didn't even steal nor did he take advantage of his position at the PSE. The guy has been a member of good standing for the last 30 years."

He adds that Garcia did not deserve being dismissed for defending a major donation, from which the donor had already benefited by marketing Fort Bonifacio as the future site of the PSE headquarters.

naïve," he says.

Yuchengco, for her part, says that the non-brokers not only had the right but, in fact, had the legal obligation to participate in something as crucial as voting for the PSE chair. "There is no conspiracy. And it's not my fault that they elected me chair," Yuchengco stresses.

The eight non-broker directors are: incumbent PSE president and former Development Bank of the Philippines chair Ernest Leung; former Economic Planning secretary and current Asian Development Bank director Cayetano Paderanga; constitutionalist and Ateneo de Manila College of Law Dean Joaquin Bernas, S.J.; ABS-CBN chair Eugenio Lopez III; former Philippine National Bank president Peter Favila; former Petron Corporation chair Monico Jacob, former Customs Commissioner Tomas Apacible and recently deceased former Meralco president Mario Camacho.

On the day that Yuchengco took her oath, about a hundred of Coyiuto's supporters staged a lightning rally at the PSE trading floor in Ortigas. Coyiuto and the four other directors under his slate—reelectionist Eddie Gobong of Lucky Securities; Federico Lim of Belson Securities; reelectionist and former PSE chair Harry Liu of Summit Securities, and Edwin Luy of Triton Securities—invoked *delicadeza* and challenged the non-brokers to subject themselves to an election.

To date, the right of the eight non-brokers to assume office is being questioned in court. A group led by former PSE president Ramon T. Garcia and former PSE chair Trinidad Kalaw has filed with the Pasig Regional Trial Court a petition seeking to declare their election null and void, as they were not subjected to any election at all. Garcia, who was originally supposed to run as a non-broker director under the Coyiuto slate, was among those disqualified by the PSE committee on nominations and elections which reduced the number of candidates to exactly eight from the original 18 non-broker nominees.

Coyiuto began his career as a stockbroker at the age of 24, one of the youngest stockbrokers at the Manila Stock Exchange. He became president and, from 1987 until the unification of the Makati and the Manila Stock Exchange, was chair of the Ma-

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The Cover Image After the controversial death of his best friend, Dominic Ochoa is moving on Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

ALL ABOUT SUMMER'S BOOKS

In one of your articles in today's Sunday Inquirer Magazine (SIM, April 21, 2002), Alya B. Honasan had an interview with Ms. Nanette Medved. Towards the end of her article, Ms. Medved recommended some books. Could you please inquire from Ms. Medved where I can buy the following books which she recommended, 1) "The Opium War Through Chinese Eyes" by Arthur Waley and 2) "Islam: A Short History" by Karen Armstrong?

JAMES NG
jong@netasia.net

"The Opium War Through Chinese Eyes" was available at Page One but is currently out of stock. Page One says they will soon have it back in stock. "Islam: A Short History" is available at the National Bookstore branches at Shangri-La Plaza, Greenhills and Cubao. —Ed.

Reading books is one of my retreats. So when I read SIM last April 21, I was overwhelmed because almost one third of the magazine was about books. It helped save time looking for good books in the vast rows in the bookstore. I'm just wondering if SIM can

again feature more fiction and literary books not only for summer reading, but books that you can read anytime of the year.

VIA EMAIL
urd44@yahoo.com

ERRATA: In the April 28, 2002 issue, SIM misspelled the name of the PBA team Talk 'N Text Phone Pals and the surname of the late National Artist N.Y.M. Gonzalez. SIM regrets the errors. —Ed.

ATTENTION CONTRIBUTORS!

SIM strives to pay our valued contributors within three weeks of publication of an article or poem. However, to facilitate preparation of your fees — and to avoid an unnecessary trip! — please give the Cashier a call at tel. no. 897-8808 local 533 to confirm if your check is ready before visiting. Many thanks and keep them coming!

All in the Game
By John Aguilar
Photographs by August dela Cruz

A Veteran at 13

KENNETH San Andres' playmates never knew he was a motocross champion until they saw him on TV and read his accomplishments in the papers. After all, how good can their *slpa* playmate be to merit so much attention from the media and the motocross circle?

It has been seven and a half years since Kenneth first rode a motorcycle, and since that time, he has been acknowledged as the wonder boy of Philippine motocross. With an astonishing collection of over 140 trophies amassed from local and international competitions, Kenneth is a 13-year-old veteran of one of the most grueling and dangerous motor sports ever conceived.

The kid from Valenzuela has earned a multitude of awards and titles. The titles "Peewee Rider of the Year" and "Mini Rider of the Year" have become a permanent fixture in Kenneth's collection of trophies and awards for the past six years. In his age group, he is in a class of his own, ruling the Mini Class in almost all the races he competes in. He was named the "2001 Young Rider of the Year" by the Philippine Sportswriters Association, and recently placed second overall in the Little Stars Category of the FIN Asia Supercross Championships held in Bangkok, Thailand. So talented is the high school sophomore in the mini class that he sometimes competes against some of the big guys in the professional class—and manages to beat them.

Naturally, Kenneth's rise to fame was met with a flurry of attention from the media. He has been featured in almost all the local sports shows, newspapers and magazines. His most recent TV appearance took him to the set of ABS CBN's "Talk TV," where he was a guest along with other motocross superstars.

Though constantly in the limelight, Kenneth would be the first to admit that he used to be shy whenever he was interviewed. He has since gotten used to the fact that people would always want to know what it is about him that makes him far more superior than the rest of the young riders out there. Asked if reporters still have a hard time getting a comment from him, he shrugs and mumbles, "*Sanay na ako* (I've gotten used to it)."

On the track, Kenneth is a totally different person. The aggressiveness and skill that drives his Kawasaki KX85CC bike to the finish line screams talent far beyond his years. But lest people get the impression that Kenneth is a reckless speed demon, he admits that once he senses a sizeable lead, he takes it easy on the throttle. "*Medyo easy-easy na lang at nagre-relax ako.*"

An abundance of guts



Speedy Kenneth with his hoard of trophies (top) and in full-throttle action (below, left)

He was barely six when Kenneth San Andres learned to ride a motorbike. Now, as the acknowledged wonder boy of Philippine motocross, he has amassed some 140 trophies for besting local and international competitors in one of the most grueling and dangerous motor sports ever conceived

and skill without a level head can be a dangerous combination, which is why Kenneth always keeps in mind certain things when he races. "*Dapat hindi ka kinakabahan at natataranta* (You shouldn't get nervous or panic)." When his rivals are close on his heels, he tries his best never to look back and get distracted. This maturity and composure is what keeps motocross racers from serious injury, if not death.

Perhaps no other person could be prouder of Kenneth than his coach and father, Jun Jun San Andres. Himself a former motocross competitor, Jun Jun introduced his son to the sport at the time when he was at the peak of his motocross career. Jun Jun says that he saw something special in his son that made him quit the sport he loved, focusing his time and effort instead on honing Kenneth's skills. "*Mas magiging malaki ang future niya* (He has a bigger future in the sport)," he notes. Like other fathers who want the best for their sons, Jun Jun taught then five-and-a-half year old Kenneth the rudiments of the sport. Jun Jun's sacrifice is easily responsible for what is now hailed as the youngest phenomenon in motocross racing.

A deluge of sponsors have since welcomed Kenneth to the world of the big boys. He is arguably the most sponsored 13-year-old athlete in the country today. His gear—from his helmet, apparel, bikes, and motor oil—are all sponsored and top-of-the-line. Kenneth is

a walking billboard of sponsors who are more than willing to have their name associated with his successes. "*Maswerte ako kasi kahit bata pa lang ako, kumpleto at maganda lahat ng gamit ko* (I'm lucky because although I'm still young, I've got good and complete stuff)," he says.

Through it all, Kenneth has learned that such success comes with great responsibility. He never rests on his laurels, and even joins his father in preparing his bike the night before a race. Though not too knowledgeable about the engine, Kenneth has learned to do simple chores like checking the tire pressure and the air cleaner. Just as important is the physical preparation he undergoes. Kenneth makes it a point to sleep early and watch his diet before a race, "so I don't feel too heavy."

Come the day itself, a prerequisite stretching regimen precedes every race. And before Kenneth even pushes the throttle to announce his presence, he never forgets to say a little prayer.

Kenneth may soar higher than his counterparts, but he has remained grounded. His father admits that Kenneth is spoiled when it comes to his bike and gear (he gets a new bike every year), but parental guidance is never far behind. When a fighting incident in school involving Kenneth and a classmate came to his attention, he was all for the school authorities' decision to suspend his son. "*Kailangan din ipakita kung hanggang saan siya, na hindi mo palaging kukunintihin*, (He has to know his limits and that I won't stand for certain behavior)," he says.

The discipline has worked well. His father recounts that Kenneth used to cry and sulk during the rare occasions when he would place 2nd or 3rd in a race, but has since learned to take his losses in stride. "He has learned to adjust," Kenneth has learned that losing is part of the game, and that no matter how good he is, losing will always be an inevitable risk of competition, Jun Jun adds.

Many would say that Kenneth is gifted because he can beat professional riders twice his age. His maturity, however, is probably the biggest factor in his success. When asked if he has encountered older men who could not take being beaten by a kid, he says, "*Hindi naman po dapat ganoon kasi sports lang po ito*. (They shouldn't take it like that; it's only a sport)." It is with answers like these—more than those moments when he lets his opponents eat dust on the track—that Kenneth distinguishes himself as a true and time-tested veteran.



The Writer's Life

By Ruel S. De Vera

A Rare Breed



DEPENDING on whom you talk to, friends either make the best or worst business associates. For the five twenty-and thirty-something friends who make up Platypus Publishing, however, it's all good. For Manuel "Manolo" Quezon III, it all fell together rather snugly. "We were brought together by accident," the Platypus founder and VP for Acquisitions explains. A much-awarded pundit, Manolo was putting together a book and needed some help to cut down the source material. For that, Manolo brought in good friend and Inq7.net editor Javier Vicente "JV" Rufino. Next to come on board was graphic designer Jay Diego. "We managed to get the book out in record time, and our friendship was sealed by a grueling trip to Hong Kong during which Jay nursed the book through the demanding Hong Kong printer." The trio then talked about becoming a publishing entity. Enter chef/prize-winning fictionist/Inquirer columnist Clinton Palanca, who came on board as Editor in Chief. Dream Cable exec Barbie Pardo was the final piece of the puzzle, coming in as the marketing consultant.

The group has been busy with various projects, most high profile of which was "Twenty Speeches that Moved a Nation," an ambitious five-CD set that featured historic speeches by Filipinos recited by stage and screen talents. It was a very personal project for Manolo (yes, he is President Manuel Luis Quezon's grandson), who had conceptualized it a long time ago. "I have had to live with speeches all my life and listen to people complaining that quoting from old speeches was an injustice because so much context was lost. Later on, I came across some recordings of famous speeches made in the 1950s and 1960s by English actors; it moved me. Much later than that, when I got into listening to historical recordings, I vowed that one day we had to have a recreation of famous speeches, since so few recordings of original speeches existed." After several years, he spent 10 months putting together such a collection with Platypus, choosing speeches ranging from Jose Rizal's "Homage to Luna and Hidalgo" to Joker Arroyo's "We Cannot Have a Nation Run by a Thief." Everyone from Emilio Aguinaldo to Joseph Estrada is in it. Interpreting the speeches were a unique collection of talent from the movies and theater: Zeneida Amador, Peque Gallaga, Janno Gibbs, Pen Medina, and Tessie Tomas, among others.

There is no rush to riches, no instant gratification for the people behind Platypus. As young as they are, Manolo says they're serious about making the face of publishing, as quixotic as that might seem. They've kept very busy, all right. Platypus is launching two books today, the third and revised edition of the landmark book, "Battle for Manila," by Richard Connaughton et. al., and a special commemorative edition of "The War Diaries of Philip Buencamino III." Also in the works is "20 Speeches" part II.

Manolo shared some of his insights and plans regarding Platypus with SIM:

SIM: Why the name Platypus?

Manolo: We wanted something catchy but not hokey. From the very start we felt we should aspire to not just being "Filipino" publishers, but publishers, period. Jay and JV, who are exceptionally business-minded, felt that in a period of globalization, we had to think global and thus not limit ourselves to the third world publisher niche. The name for our company came up on a whim. We were mulling over names when someone mentioned we were quite a collection of unusual types, and someone responded that we were very much like a platypus. We all rather liked the idea of the platypus as a creature, and to be honest with you, the little platypus makes a fine logo. It's catchy, too.

SIM: How do you get along or work together?

Manolo: Jay, JV and I meet every fortnight although we are heavily dependent on email to keep things humming along. We also have an American editor, Ms. Nicole Boback, based in Washington, D.C. She's worked with American papers and some think tanks there, so she works with JV to maintain international editorial standards in all our books. We're quite lucky to have her on board. I suppose what makes us unique is our inability, frankly, to compromise on quality. Early on, we made a decision that we would go for fewer, but more important projects, fewer in that we could not compete with other publishers who prefer quantity over quality. In the end this may be a fatal decision on our part, but it's the only way the three of us can really work. We also have a shared interest in history, which I suppose informs our collective decisions. We were brought together by a historical project and most, if not all, our current projects involve history for one reason or another. But what really sets us apart is our unwillingness to settle for anything but the best.

SIM: What was most difficult about the "20 Speeches" project?

Manolo: The hardest part, bar none, was selecting which speech would be included and which wouldn't. I got a lot of flack from a lot of people: some didn't like the fact there were Communists; others felt there should have been speeches by so and so and not by so and so; feminists deplored the small number of speeches by women; some were horrified Marcos and Erap were there, others didn't understand why Manglapus wasn't there, or why Joma



Platypus people: (L to R) Manolo Quezon, Jay Diego, Barbie Pardo, JV Rufino and Clinton Palanca

Manolo Quezon and the young people of Platypus Publishing are planning their own publishing revolution

Sison should be there. But in the end I felt many objections, while valid, were ideological and contrary to my own ideology: which was, within the means available and space limitations, to be inclusive and comprehensive. That is why Marcos and Erap are there, because their speeches did move the nation; why all the speeches I finally selected are there: in their time they profoundly influenced Filipinos. Together they tell the story of our country.

SIM: What do you hope people will take with them when they experience

"Twenty Speeches?"

Manolo: An appreciation for oratory, for one; that it needn't be bombastic; that it comes in many forms; that one should take time to listen and understand and in so doing, one will relive the nation's history, the issues that brought it together and have torn it apart; the sad realization, as Tessie Tomas told me when she recorded one speech, that things seem so sadly similar to a century ago. But also the hopeful idea of realizing that this is the first step to moving us finally out of the cycles that have cursed our country, we'd develop a sense of duty mutating to ambition leading to apathy leading to despotism leading to anger, leading to a new round of ambition more vicious than the one that came before.

SIM: What is your long-term vision for Platypus?

Manolo: We offer all the editorial, production, and distribution services needed to get a book to market. We've worked on

the distribution of our own products such as "20 Speeches that Moved a Nation," a collection of recorded speeches on CDs, and have done production and distribution deals for items such as Sandy Daza's "Happy Eating" cookbook. Our long-term vision is to create a corporate identity that allows the reader to immediately identify a book as a Platypus Publishing book. To come up with a significant and recognized body of work, to come up with books that mean something, and represent the best that the Filipino can present to the world; that means, much as I detest the term, "world-class" books and other products, in terms of innovation, content, and design. We eventually want to be not just respected players in the local field but to capitalize on opportunities abroad that would be made possible by the unique strengths of the Filipino—our creativity, our being comfortable with many cultures, our natural ability to work with people from many places.

Dominic...from page 1

The void will be particularly felt in their show "Whattamen," says Dominic. "I don't think anyone can fill in his shoes," he maintains. "Rico was very easy to get along with. He was able to touch a lot of people's lives. He remained a gentleman, even if others were trying to put him down and destroy him. He didn't know how to say 'no,' so there were people who wanted to take advantage of him."

"I hope the fans will continue to support 'Whattamen' even if Rico is no longer with us. We'll make it a point to offer something new all the time. I believe that's what Rico wants us to do."

Despite the trauma of losing his best friend, Dominic has managed to move on — both with his life and career. Hosting is one thing he now enjoys doing with "MTB." For more than a year now, Dominic has gotten used to having a daily noontime show. His day starts as early as 9 a.m., when he wakes up and prepares for the studio. "It's like going to school," he says. "I have to be in the studio by 11:30 a.m.. There's a penalty for being late but that's good because it instills discipline among the hosts. So most of us are on time."

Joining "MTB" is perhaps the most significant break that has happened to Dominic's five-year show biz career. He recently renewed his contract with the noontime show for another year. "With 'MTB,' I was able to reach out to a wider audience, namely C-D-E," the young actor asserts. "Today, even the taxi drivers and jeepney drivers watch us. I've also found a second family away from home with my MTB co-hosts and staff."

Yet, despite his celebrity status, Dominic's lifestyle has remained simple. He still lives with his parents in their house in Parañaque. "Well, everything there is free," he laughs. "I don't have to worry about the rent or food or the maid. My lifestyle is still the same. Only now, there are more people who know me. Even those who are in the States recognize me because TFC, The Filipino Channel, extends the reach of ABS-CBN."



"This is one business that I love so much and I can't turn my back on it."

From his showbiz earnings, Dominic has been saving up for a house and lot. "I was taught by my parents to value hard-earned money," he says. "So even if I buy something expensive, I make sure I'm still liquid. Why spend all your money on an expensive car? Then when you get into an accident, you won't even have money for repairs. I'm not like that."

Dominic's edge over other young stars is a degree in business administration from the University of Santo Tomas. For him, education is an excellent fallback option in case his showbiz career goes downhill. The eldest of Boy and Ma. Lourdes Ochoa's two children, Dominic went to the United States after college where he initially planned to start his professional career. But after only three months, he had to battle homesickness. "I missed my family and my friends so I decided to come home," he offers.

He has never looked back since. "Not in my wildest dreams did I see myself in the acting world when I was younger. My ambition was to become a businessman and earn a good living. I only want to live a comfortable life and raise my kids the way my parents raised me and my sister." But he got hooked and now he admits, "This is

one business that I love so much, and I can't just turn my back on it."

TV commercials became Dominic's stepping stone to showbiz. They also prepared him to be at ease in front of the camera. After he was discovered by TV host Boy Abunda, who now acts as his talent manager, Dominic appeared in a few TV shows and later auditioned for ABS-CBN's Star Circle. He was launched as a member of Star Circle Batch 4. Not too long after, he was cast in such top-rating shows as "Gimik," "Kaybol," "Sang Linggo nApo Sila," "Asap" and "Labs Ko si Babes." But it was when he joined "Whattamen" with Rico and Marvin that Dominic's career really took off.

For someone who never saw himself being in show biz, Dominic has charted an enviable route to stardom. He has tried drama in TV soaps, comedy with "Whattamen" and hosting with "MTB." He wants to be as versatile as he can and expresses his desire to even do action movies in the future.

Will he ever try going sexy on the big screen?

"No way! Not with this body," Dominic retorts. Besides, he adds, "I want to earn respect in this business, to build up my name and be wholesome. Rico, Marvin and I are aware that we have an image to protect, especially since we endorse products."

At 28, Dominic does not see himself settling down in the near future, even if he has been vocal about his relationship with actress Janna Victoria. "I don't even think about it now," he says. "That's not my priority."

If things had been different, Dominic sees himself in the advertising business or managing his own venture. But having planted his dreams firmly on showbiz, he is intent on making the most of the craft. While busy with his TV stints, he has also managed to accommodate film projects. After starring in "Got To Believe" with Rico and Claudine, he recently wrapped up "Nine Mornings" with Donita Rose and Piolo Pascual. He is set to start work on the youth-oriented comedy flick, "Jologs."

Life goes on, even for Dominic.

Movers and Shakers

By Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre Jr.



Keeper of Her City's Heritage

TO say that she has been fated for this position is, perhaps, to underestimate Mayor Eva Marie Singson Medina of Vigan City who is now on her third term.

True, politics is a given among the Singsons and Crisologos of Ilocos Sur, from whom Mayor Eva is descended. Her grandfather, Jose Singson, was Vigan Mayor. Her father, Titong Singson, was mayor for 17 years, and then governor until his death in the late 1980s. Uncle Chavit Singson was governor and congressional representative for a long time. Another uncle currently sits as vice governor, an aunt as city councilor, and a cousin, as board member.

It's all in the family, some people would say, but Biguenos, which is how the people of Vigan are called, know that their mayor has more to offer than just propitious genes and strategic family connections. It was under Mayor Eva's leadership that Vigan was inscribed in the UNESCO List of World Heritage Site, a project that she modestly attributes to her father's initiative back in the '80s when the elder Singson was still mayor.

"But our nomination was turned down because we lacked local protective laws," she explains. With help from UNESCO's Richard Engelheart and local pointman Ric Favis, the local community eventually put together a package of measures that complied with the requirements, including a conservation council that defined guidelines on preserving and restoring Vigan's Hispanic structures. The guidelines specified the height of the houses, the type of windows and staircases that should go with the house, the material for the façade, and so on. "We also sought the advice of experts like architect Toti Villalon," Mayor Eva recalls.

Their efforts, which began in 1997, finally paid off in 1999 when Vigan was finally included in the World Heritage List. It is a singular honor that Mayor Eva is rightly proud of. "It is the whole city that has been inscribed," she says. "History tells us that while it was in the *centro* where the rich merchants lived, the commodities that they sold came from the villages, which is still the case today. We have barangays that produce pottery, places that specialize in *abel iloko* (Ilocos weave), and another that produces nothing but rice cakes. All these continue to contribute to the development of Vigan as a trade center, which it has always been."

As a trade center, Vigan would reclaim its long lost and almost forgotten status as a city. While the townfolk failed to establish that the place was once composed of three islands that became a contiguous mass when the bodies of water silted, the community managed to get hold of old books and documents which proved that Vigan was declared a city in 1857 by the King of Spain, when the seat of the diocese was transferred to Vigan from Lallo, Cagayan.

That clinched their argument before then Local Government Secretary Aquilino Pimentel. "The next thing we knew, we were holding a plebiscite. By January 2001, we were again a city," says the mayor.

The "can-do" spirit is something that Mayor Eva exudes. Her blue jeans are topped by a blouse made of Ilocos' famous weave, that sturdy blanket material that has recently gone out of the linen drawer and into wardrobe cabinets. As she orders bowls of a native noodle delicacy from an ambulant vendor, the woman hardly comes across as one to the manor born. But in fact, she is a member of the Assumption high school batch that includes model Crispy Santamaria, philanthropist-ophthalmologist Minguita Padilla, singer Joey Albert, designer Dita Sandico Ong and

Meet Mayor Eva Singson Medina, the woman who has converted Vigan's quiet Hispanic houses into bustling centers of trade that showcase not only the city's fabled past, but also its many commercial possibilities

Sen. Loren Legarda.

"Before my father entered politics, he sent me to Manila," recounts Mayor Eva. "I was only in Grade IV when I became an intern at Assumption Herran. Then, I transferred to the San Lorenzo campus where I graduated from high school in 1977. That's why I never witnessed the fight between the Singsons and the Crisologos," she says of the years when Ilocos Sur was a veritable warlord arena, its cobblestoned *paseos* and tobacco fields stained with bad blood.

When she came back in the early 1980s, Mayor Eva brought with her a diploma in architecture from the University of Sto. Tomas, and a husband who, "thank God, has been able to easily adapt to the local culture and busy himself with his own business ventures."

The mayor learned the ropes in politics from her governor father who asked her to be his private secretary, giving her his entire salary in the process. When he died, she was appointed board member, a position that allowed her Uncle Chavit to pass on to her some administrative responsibilities. Among her resolutions as provincial board member is that which declared Monday as *Abel Iloko* Day, just so Biguenos would explore the possibilities of wearing the famous weave for other occasions other than as costume for dances.

In 1995, her Uncle Chavit begged her to run for mayor of Vigan but she only agreed when another uncle who had been expected to run for the position finally gave her the go-signal just minutes before the COMELEC's midnight deadline for the filing of candidacy.

Being the mayor of a city that is considered a living museum presents Mayor Eva some unique challenges. "I look at these problems more as points of disagreement," she says. "It all boils down to our desire to bring back Vigan to its old glory and not just as a place where you find the greatest concentration of these grand, historical houses, but also as a trade center. Others would rather have a quiet Vigan, but that is not the real Vigan. The Vigan of history is one that was the economic center of the North."

Wanting to bring those trading days back, Mayor Eva has encouraged the adaptive reuse of the ground floors of Vigan's old houses "into establishments that would cater to the needs of both the local populace and the tourists." The earnings, she adds, would contribute to the upkeep of these old residences, most of which have fallen into disrepair, their owners having settled either in Manila or abroad.

Today, right next to the Vigan Cathedral are two icons of modern fastfood living: a McDonald's and a Jollibee branch, "obstructions," as Mayor Eva's critics would put it.

"But what exactly do they obstruct?" she asks. "Where McDonald's now stands used to be the ruins of a structure that never rose again after it was gutted by a fire. Before that was built, it was a seminary that was destroyed by fire

too, and which has since been relocated to the outskirts of Vigan." She adds that McDonald's had to abide with certain guidelines, among them building a single-story structure that would blend in with the rest of the city. Still, Mayor Eva admits that she sees room for improvement, among them the tower in the McDo structure "that does not have historical relevance, although such towers sometimes serve to hide water tanks. She'd also want the town's signage to indicate which buildings are really old, "as it would be a lie to give the impression that some structures are authentically old when they are not."

As to criticisms that these food franchise structures are an eyesore, she asks: "Do tourists actually come to Vigan to take a look at these two buildings?" On fears that they could take business away from *empanada* vendors, she ripostes, "Do you think tourists and locals would eat burger and fries the whole day?"

The restoration and renovation of some structures has met with some local resistance as well, with the old Coca-Cola warehouse being targeted by detractors for relocation. "But the warehouse has been there even before I was born," says Mayor Eva of the makeshift structure made of rusty galvanized iron. "When they came to us with their restoration plans, we could only agree. They even had arches and columns, which would be in conformity with the Vigan style. So, how could we not give them the permit? Besides, what signal would we be sending if we refuse to issue a permit to a big company like Coca-Cola, when it's not even violating any law?"

Vigan's reknown as the center of beautifully reproduced furniture and artifacts has attracted a lot of out-of-town buyers as well, with the old houses serving as showrooms and, to Mayor Eva's dismay, as surreptitious business centers. "And yet some of these shop operators claim that no monetary transaction takes place in these shops," gripes the mayor. "Instead, they claim that the exchange of money takes place in the workshops outside the city proper. Is that not a big lie? Are they trying to evade their taxes?"

While such issues are a thorn on her side, Mayor Eva confesses that the greater challenge is to encourage the original homeowners to come back. "The gangland-type kind of conflicts in the early '70s drove them away. Now that we are in the World Heritage List, I hope they would come back, and at least restore their ancestral houses." But the question remains, who shall shoulder the restoration costs?

It's a sticky issue, the mayor admits, considering that the homeowners' descendants have multiplied by the hundreds, with most of them resettled elsewhere. Some antiques have been sold in the market by the caretakers themselves and, admits Mayor Eva, even by the descendants themselves, "but there's no way we can check because Biguenos are proud and will never be caught selling their treasures in the open. We can only appeal to their sense of respect for our heritage," she says.

These problems aside, Vigan these days is a hub of market activity, the mayor points out, with local products holding their own in the highly competitive market. "Our pottery factories no longer limit their products to jars. They also have wall décor, table utensils, and bric-a-brac. The *abel iloko* now drapes both the high society *fashionistas* and wage-earning office girls. Our *bagnet* and *longganisa* have become five-star culinary offerings. Even products from neighboring areas like *cornik* and *bibingka* are enjoying an unprecedented boom."

"From a dead town, Vigan is now a vibrant city. And we're optimistic it will never die again," Mayor Eva says.

Artwatch

By Joy Rojas

Going with the Flow

It was not a star-studded awards show or fancy musical that recently motivated veteran TV director Al Quinn to wake up at 5:30 in the morning, exercise infinite patience and focus for hours on the task at hand. Rather, it was the joy of recreating nature and bringing it back to life in 37 highly detailed land- and seascape "sculptures" for "Quinntessential Flow," his third venture into arts on display at the Home Zone, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati.

A scuba diver for the past five years, Quinn thought it would be interesting to put his collection of seashells and dead coral together "like a jigsaw puzzle and make them look alive." Mounting them on plywood and painting colorful underwater scenes on them was an initial attempt, but when his two daughters urged him to purchase materials for a tabletop fountain, he decided to surprise them with his version of a Zen fountain. Using driftwood, seashells from his late father's collection, and his own underwater finds, Quinn fashioned these elements in a way that would make the water trickle endlessly over them. "I believe that water gives life, and so I'm giving these things another lease on life," he explains. "After I started with one, I didn't want to stop."

Judging from the intricate and painstaking work involved, it appears that the fountains are more than just a challenge to Quinn's creativity. Handy around the house, he drew on his electrical skills to install lights and a submersible pump into his pieces. He also assembled several fountains at a time while waiting for the glue, paint and cement on one fountain to dry. And when it came to duplicating the soothing sound of flowing water, he found that seashells provided



ROGER MARGALLO

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

God is a Defense Attorney, Not a Prosecutor

Jesus is capable of proving us "not guilty," inculpable and absolutely lovable in the moment of trial. He loves and heals us first even before we can hate ourselves for not loving Him

JESUS said: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always..." (Jn. 14:15-17)

An advocate is a "defense attorney" who collects every possible reason to make his client appear "not guilty" and hopefully get acquitted in court. A "prosecuting attorney," on the other hand, strives to document all possible evidence to make the accused look guilty and punishable in court.

In Jn 8:2-12, Jesus was the defense attorney of the woman caught in adultery. Although He frowned on the woman's act, He, however, stood by her as an "advocate," one who understood the weakness of the sinner and the pressure she had to cope with. It was the stone-throwers who behaved like her "prosecuting attorneys."

The good news in today's reading is the promise of Jesus to send a "defense attorney" (advocate) in our moments of trial and abandonment. "I will not leave you orphans," He said. "Just keep my commandments, and know that I have loved you first."

The strange thing about this "command to love" is that it is a command, and common sense tells us that there is no such thing as a "commanded love." Nobody, not even God, can compel me to love at the point of a gun, or under pain of sin or excommunication. But this "command to love" in the writing of St. John should be read in context. "My command is this," Jesus said. "Love one another as I have loved you." As I have loved you simply means because I have loved you first. How can you not but love in return if you feel loved by someone who has loved you first?

"This is what love is," St. John wrote in 1 Jn 4:10, 19: "It is not that we have loved God, but that He loved us first, and sent His Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven." In other words, God is

our "first Lover" and His love is our "first love." He has loved us first and we are precious to Him. We do not have to look beautiful or smell clean or do many good and holy things for us to be loved by God. We do not have to acquire titles, honors and Papal awards and wear many labels in order to be accepted and loved by God. Even before we could love Him, He had already loved us. That is the miracle of the "first love."

The other miracle is that even in our sinfulness, even before we repent, God already loves and heals our unrepentant heart. Our movement from unrepentance to repentance is made possible only by God loving us first and healing us (1 Jn 4:19). God loves us not because we have repented first but because it was His initiative to love and heal us first that moved us to repentance.

That is why the Spirit of Jesus is called Advocate or "defense witness"—because He is capable of proving us "not guilty," inculpable and absolutely lovable in the moment of trial; because He loves and heals us first even before we can hate ourselves for not loving Him. How can you not love a God like this? How can you not but love Jesus of Nazareth then, and the Spirit of Jesus now? How can you not but dare to become like this God you adore?

Think about this:

I did absolutely nothing to make God love me in the first place. Therefore I can do nothing to make Him love me more. And I can do nothing wrong to make Him love me less. (Wala akong ginawang anumang mula pa sa aking pagsilang upang mahalin ako ng Diyos. At wala akong magagawang higit pa upang higit pa Niya akong mahalin. At walang pagkakasala akong ginawa o gagawin pa upang mabawasan kahit katiting ang pagmamahal Niya sa akin.)

Sought-after TV director Al Quinn turns his seashell and coral collection into his vision of zen fountains. This former ballet dancer, choreographer, diver and late-blooming artist confesses that he has finally found his element in water in this new but still soothing setting



Soothing sculpture from the sea

music to his ears. "I discovered that water dripping from one shell to another produces a better sound because it's hollow," he says.

"Quinntessential Flow" marks Quinn's first effort at three-dimensional art. Golf greens were the subject of 1999's "Take One: A Brush With Realism," while "Shadows of Black and White" saw him dabble in pen-and-ink in 2000. But his latest show he describes as his most enjoyable. "We already have so many good painters around," he observes. "I guess I wanted to do something different, to create the kind of scenes whose impact I couldn't really capture in painting."

No stranger to the arts, Alcuin Pastrano began his illustrious career years ago as, believe it or not, a ballet dancer. "I even did 'Swan Lake' and my partner was the sister of [actress] Marlene Dauden," he says. Shifting to jazz, he formed his own group and performed in the country's first-ever TV station. It was local movie icon Pancho Magalona who spotted his potential as a choreographer. "He asked me to choreograph for a musical with him and Tita [Duran]," he says. "And he was the one who coined my name. When they were making the credits for the movie, I wrote 'Al Pastrano,' and Pancho said, 'Al, that's

too long and it doesn't sound good. Let's just shorten it but make it sound like your first name.' So I became 'Al Quinn,' like Anthony Quinn!" Since then, Quinn's name has been synonymous with visually-enticing musicals, game shows, seasonal extravaganzas like the Urian and Star Awards, and variety programs like the hit comedy "Isup."

While an ABS-CBN birthday bash for soap star Judy Ann Santos and a Star Awards for Television special are next on this director's plate, one can only wonder what Quinn's coming artwork will look like. "All I know is that it will have something to do with nature," he smiles.

As to whether he intends to quit his day job for art in the same way that he progressed from being choreographer to director, Quinn is inclined to go with the flow.

"I may or may not. If I can do both, why not?" he answers cryptically. "But my wife tells me that if I give up directing, I will grow old and weak. I still love directing *kasi*. In fact, I enjoy everything I do. I think that's the secret of a good life."

Quinntessential Flow runs till May 5.

Art

Velling. Bob Nuestro's latest works on paper, until May 15 at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. For details, call 897-6990.

Munting Simula, an exhibit of watercolor and paintings of landscapes, seascapes and mother and child by Nik Masangay at Silahis Arts and Artifacts, 3/F, Glorietta 4, Makati until May 17. For details, call 728-4961 or 527-2113.

Antarctica, an exhibit exploring Antarctica through drawings and paintings by Australian artist Stephen Eastaugh, until June 7 at the Australia Centre, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

The Lopez Memorial Museum will be having an art exhibition titled **Fixation: Notions of Obsession** featuring the works of contemporary artists until July 13. The Lopez Museum is located at the ground floor, Benpres Building, Meralco Ave corner Exchange Road, Pasig. For details, call Fanny San Pedro at 631-2417, or email pezzum@skyinet.net.

Music

Three's Company, a three-piano concert featuring Najib Ismail, Mary Anne Espina and Jonathan Arevalo Coo on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue. Ticket prices are P300 and P200 with a 50 percent discount for students. For details, call MCO Office at 813-3849.

It's Magic, a concert featuring Alza Segueria and Kyla, May 10, 8:30 p.m. at Crossroad '77, Scout Reyes cor. Mother Ignacia Avenue, Dilliman, QC. Tickets available at SM Ticketnet outlets or call 911-5555 or 373-0680.

Songs in the Key of Comedy, a special show by Marissa Sanchez at the Calesa Music Bar and Lounge of the Hyatt Regency on May 6 and 13 from 9 p.m. onwards.

Independent record label is currently selling its four CD releases namely: Uno Documenta Compilo (debut compilation), "documentatus" (split e.p.), Astrud5 (foreign import) and Ghost of Rocker Janis (Roxie's debut LP) at **Amoeba Records** located at Fuente Circle, Eastwood, City Walk Libis, E. Rodriguez Ave., Q.C. For inquiries, contact Mads at 09179852658 or visit www.documenta.com.



Nuestro's "Velling" series on exhibit at The Drawing Room



Marissa Sanchez lights up the Calesa Music Bar and Lounge

Art Pack offers 2-in-1 kiddie package. For only P2900 inclusive of major materials, six sessions at two hours each, kids get to attend both Sculptural Clay exploration and the Little Potters workshop (ages 7-15). Classes start May 13. Also offered are adult work-

shops on Sculptural Earthenware Ceramic, Copper Wire Jewelry, Stones and Copper Weaving and Faux Stained Glass. For details, call 891985 or 892318. Workshops will be held at True Value, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati.

CCP's Actors' Company is looking for a new batch of aspiring and practicing thespians to undergo specialized training. Auditions on May 7 and 8, 1-5 p.m. at the 4th floor, CCP Silangan Hall. Applicants should be at least 18 years old with

background in stage acting. For inquiries, call 832-3661 or 832-1125 local 1620, Tuesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bayan, Isang Paa na Lamang, Maestro Lucio San Pedro's last great work will conduct its first reading of the script on May 6, 5-9 p.m. at the UP College of Music Mini-Hall. Applicants who passed the auditions on April 19 and 20 may confirm attendance with Charm Callejo at 9214523 or 0917-8930723.

Image Enhancers Unlimited will hold one-day workshops on **Personality Development and Make-Over Workshop** this month from 1-6 p.m. For details and schedules call 535-2545 or 0917-8901923.

Mar Borlongan, Gilbert Perez and E.R. Tagle will conduct art workshops on portrait painting, fashion illustration and nude painting. All art lessons will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. for five consecutive weeks at the E.R. Tagle little gallery, Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St. (Vito Cruz Ext.), Makati City. For inquiries, call 816-0904 or 0917-9726223.

A two-day seminar featuring a new approach to **Thesis Writing** will be conducted by Dr. Cesar M. Mercado, Ph.D., through

the Development Consultants for Asia Pacific on May 11 and 18. The seminar will be held at the Bonifacio Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For more information, call 9267347, 9269522, fax no. 9263244 or e-mail dcaap@pacific.net.ph.

The Oak Tree Learn & Play Center offers summer activities like candle craft and terracotta pottery. Other activities include bead craft, glass painting and ceramic painting. May 6-27, every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. For inquiries, please call 9328757 or 9513333 local 219.

Paninula ng Panulaang Pilipino, a workshop on Pilipino poetry to be held at the Earthlite, 4th floor Activity Center of COD Dept. Store, Cubao, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For reservation, call 4285041 or 0919-6318749.

Get a 10 percent discount on your food bill when you make reservations for parties and company meetings at **Don Henrico's** West Avenue and Don Henrico's Pedro Gil until June 30. For details, call 372-3777, 372-4561 (West Avenue) or 524-9141/34 and 450-8117/18 (Malate).

Family Encounter Weekend Seminar, Class No. 9 of the St. Andrew Marriage Encounter Community will be held on May 18-19 starting at 8 a.m. at APCS, Engineering Building, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. For details, call 936-1491 or 0917-8106527.

The Pontifical Missionary Societies celebrates the 70th year of its establishment in the Philippines and the 50th year of the PMS Annual Assembly of Diocesan Directors with a **pilgrimage tour** on May 11 to the Shrine of the Miraculous Ina Poon Bato in Botolan, Zambales. Activities include Mass, Rosary and flower offering. Fee is P1,000 inclusive of souvenirs, morning snacks and lunch. For registration, call 731-3208 or 740-3030. The Outlet Yard celebrates the traditional Flores de

Mayo with a colorful gay beauty

pageant **Ms. Flores de Mayo 2002** every Saturday of the month. Grand finals is on May 31. For inquiries, call 718-1885. The Outlet Yard is the latest mall in Quezon City featuring the best in fashion and dining. It is located at 1480 Quezon Avenue (near the corner of Scout Borromeo).

Holiday Inn Manila's Summer Breakout Package, exclusive for a family of two adults and two kids, covers a day's use of a Standard Room from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., free use of the swimming pool, P1,000 worth of food and beverage vouchers, consumables, free use of the gym, and a Playroom pass for kids. The package is valid until May 31. For inquiries, call 526-1212 loc. 2333 and loc. 2340. Edsa Shangri-La's **Tennis Camp** invites kids ages 5-18 to its summer tennis program, designed by Philippine Tennis Association head coach Joseph Lizardo. Classes start on May 8, with 12 sessions per batch, and fees



SNACK 2002 at the Taal Lake Yacht Club

ranging from P3,500-P4,500 per person. For inquiries, call the Health Club at 633-8888 loc. 2901 to 2902.

The **NVM Gonzalez Award** is now open to all Filipino writers in English for the Best Published Short Story of the year. Short stories in English published within the period of October 16, 2001 to September 30, 2002 are eligible. Editors of national magazines and university and college journals are invited to join. Six copies of the

Cinema

Le Gout des Autres, a story about a factory owner whose mundane life is disrupted when he falls in love with Clara, a lead actress in a play who turns out to be his English instructor, May 8, 8 p.m. at Alliance Ondo Auditorium, Alliance Francaise de Manille, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. Free admission. For inquiries, call 895-7585.

Onstage

The Owl and the Pussycat, Repertory Philippines' presentation of Bill Manhoff's romantic comedy about two strangers—a pretentious, young aspiring writer and an actress/model who entertains men for money in her apartment—as they come to respect and love each other despite seemingly insurmountable differences. The play runs at the William J. Shaw Theater, Shangri-La Plaza until May 19 then moves to the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City from May 23 to June 2. For details, call 633-4821 to 25.



Miren Alvarez and Paolo Fabregas in "The Owl and the Pussycat" from Repertory Philippines

Not ... from page 2

Coyiuto also vehemently denies the rumored concessions that he was reportedly asking from the MPC group and showed several documents to prove his point. "They offered me the business and I turned it down, I have the documents. I have the letter. In short who's bribing who? And I refused to be bribed," he says. "They offered me business which I didn't accept," he adds, describing the controversy as a "conspiracy" against him.

Coyiuto says he is quite a busy man to use up all his energy over the PSE squabble. If the non-brokers won't heed his group's calls for *delicadeza*, he says it's up to them to cling to their posts. "But won't they feel good if they had the mandate of

the stockholders? I'm not recognizing all of them but for the sake of the PSE, I'll be attending the PSE board meetings," he says. Since the controversial election of Yuchengco on March 9, Coyiuto's group has not been attending board meetings and has likewise kept their hands off the appointment of key officers in the PSE.

But he's beyond that now, Coyiuto claims. "I want to relax. I have a lot of work even within my own organization," he says. He also professes faith in the stock brokerage industry in the midst of criticisms against its so-called "Old Boys Club" culture. He notes that for the

longest time, there was never a broker who defaulted on any transaction even at a time when the banks were closing shops. "Why condemn an institution like us? Continuous reform is good for any institution. We are accepting that. We are abiding by the Securities Regulation Code," he says.

As such, Coyiuto says he will not abandon the duties bestowed upon him by the PSE stockholder-brokers. Whether or not he will be able to reclaim what he believes to be his rightful place at the PSE, he says he will go on as a fiscalizer, ensuring check and balance in the decision-making process within the bourse.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café: QC (926-7982)
- 70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumms: El Pueblo, Origas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.

Twin bill by Tinio

UP Playwrights Theater presents two one-act plays titled "Claudia and Her Mother" and "Ang Mga Kahon" by the late Rolando S. Tinio, National Artist for Theater. "Claudia and Her Mother" is a Gothic tale of family secrets and tenuous relationships. "Ang Mga Kahon," on the other hand, is a story of intrigue involving people in a web of treachery. These productions will run until May 12 at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan, Bulwagang Rizal, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For inquiries, touring and ticket reservations, call the Dulaang UP Office at 926-1349, 920-5301 loc. 6441 or email dulaangup@yahoo.com.



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Twists of Fate
By Fe B. Zamora

Woman of Outrageous Fortune

A LINE of bastards," is how Rose Hancock Porteous describes her own lineage in her tell-all autobiography published in 1992. It is a colorful addition to the long list of inauspicious labels that the former Rosemarie Lacson is heir to in Australia's tabloid circles. The seventh of nine children from the landed Lacson clan of Bacolod and Negros, she is variously known in gossip columns as the Cinderella of Perth, "the killer bimbo" and the housekeeper-turned-socialite-turned-suspect in the death of her third husband, iron ore magnate Langley George Hancock.

But in a decision that surely riled Hancock's only daughter Gina Rinehart who filed the suit, the court on April 26 this year acquitted Rose of murder charges for lack of evidence. Perth coroner Alastair Hope ruled that Hancock, who had been suffering from heart and kidney ailments, died of natural causes at age 82. One of Australia's wealthiest men died on March 27, 1992, just hours after he had asked the court to keep his wife, Rose, away from him.

Just days after her acquittal, the woman again hogged the news after she announced plans to divorce her fourth husband, real estate agent Willie Porteous. Their 10-year marriage has come under pressure because of the inquest, she says, adding that she has "lived the life of a virgin for the past six years." Porteous told reporters he was not aware of his wife's actions.

It's yet another chapter in the continuing saga of Rose Hancock Porteous, who has inspired a mix of sordid fascination, envy and disgust from several quarters, including a former husband and her only daughter. Frequently described as "Imeldific," the woman shows exactly why in her November visit to the Philippines last year to promote a fashion show:

She glides in with elk-like grace, long strides matched by sweeping arm movements. Dropping to the ground, she ransacks a paper bag of videotapes, shoves one into the video player and voila! there onscreen was Rose Lacson Hancock Porteous floating in a sea of ruffles, walking down a winding staircase like a blushing debutante. "That's the gown I wore as Miss Lions," she annotates. "Oh, that was in the '60s," she gushes, gazing lovingly at herself on the TV screen.

She presses the fast-forward button and the screen lights up with the interiors of a house—high ceilings, grand staircase, a huge chandelier. The house costs \$24 million, more or less, she says casually. And that chandelier? "Waterford crystal from Ireland, takes three days to clean and costs £670,000 (around P5 million) in 1990." She adds with a coy smile, "You know, that has to be brought down by a pulley."

BORN October 26, 1948, Rosemarie Lacson was not exactly poor. Her father, Nicolas Lacson, was a descendant of Lucio Lacson, who once owned tracks of land in Iloilo and Negros. The legendary Arsenio Lacson, former mayor of Manila, was the brother of Rose's mother, Amparo, and Nicolas' cousin. Her parents were actually second-degree cousins and descendants of a Spanish friar and Chinese artisan who gave Rose her Chinese-Spanish features.

Rose grew up in an atmosphere that nurtured the belief that the Lacsons were better than you and me. Like the typical *hacenderos* of the '50s and '60s, they wallowed in luxury and sent their sons and daughters abroad to jetset with the rich and famous. Very few *hacenderos'* children even bothered to finish college, smug in the knowledge that there's an *hacienda* in their future. But the social turmoil brought about by the *sacadas'* slave-like conditions and reduced sugar quotas from markets abroad spelled the end of the sugar barons' glory days.

And so it was that the former spoiled brats from Negros and Iloilo were forced to fend for themselves. By the time she finished Mass Communications at Maryknoll (now Miriam College), Rose was ready to face the world on her own with no *hacienda* fortune to back her up.

In 1970, she applied as stewardess with Cathay Pacific but failed an emergency preparedness test. She flew back to Manila to work as promo girl in a TV station and, she writes in her autobiography "A Rose by Any Other Name" published in 1992, partied the nights away "as one of the socialites in Manila." In one of those parties, she met Julian Teodoro, a scion of the wealthy Teodoro family who owns then leading shoe brand Ang Tibay. Teodoro was separated from his wife, socialite Rose Castillejos.

He was a persistent suitor, Rose recalls in her book. "He introduced himself as

Jay Montano III. "He kidnapped me," she says. In September 1971, Ms Castillejos was shot by a spurned suitor. Her death freed Teodoro from the marriage. On October 26, 1971, Rose, then 23 and five months pregnant, married Teodoro in a Greenhills church.

It was a stormy marriage, recounts Rose, who says she was locked in a fierce battle with her mother-in-law. "She had me placed in a stockade for three days," she recounts. The worst came months later. "My husband dumped me in Highway 54 (now Edsa) with 50 centavos in my wallet," she says. With their daughter Johanna and loyal *yaya* in tow, Rose started on her own anew. She resolved never to allow anyone to step on her again.

The next years would test Rose's grit and spunk. She dabbled in the black market dealing wines, washing machines and other PX goods from Clark. She also sold underwear for "scarlet women" working in nightclubs along Roxas Boulevard. In 1976, Rose and her sister Margie left for Europe as overseas contract workers. Outbound Filipinos were then limited to \$500 pocket money. To get around the regulation, Rose and Margie sewed money into the hems of their clothes. Rose did her sister one better: she had \$5,000 wrapped in a condom "stuck inside me," she wrote in her autobiography.

Moving about in Europe, Rose realized she was attractive to foreign males "who appeared to merely want to own me—nothing more than a chattel," she writes. She worked in a fashion boutique in Rome and later, Madrid, as model and promo girl. Eventually, she sent for her daughter Johanna. Homesick after some months, the two were soon back in Manila. But not for long. The footloose Rose kept them on the road. She was briefly "married" to a Singaporean, "for convenience," she says as she was working there at that time.

She was in Singapore when she decided to visit a friend in Perth, Australia who was getting married. But she was an unwelcome guest to her friend's would-be husband. While looking for a place to crash, she heeded her friend's suggestion that she answer a want ad for a housekeeper. Her would-be employer turned out to be Langley George Hancock.

It was not love at first sight. At least not for her. If at all, Rose started her stay at the Hancock's with a web of lies. Interviewed by Hancock's aide, she found herself inventing stories about her "experience" as a housekeeper. On her first day of work, her employer's daughter Gina showed her around. Later that day, she met Hancock, whom she remembers as a wise man with broad shoulders and thick glasses. "He looked distinguished," she writes in her book.

It was come and go for them, as Hancock was a busy man. But Rose writes that he would always try to chat her up every time she passed by his office. He noticed that her hands were not those of a working woman, and that she spoke good English. Things were going well, until Johanna found out that her mother was a "maid." The girl cried and rebelled. Rose decided she might as well quit. But Hancock wouldn't have it. She was told to resign as housekeeper and apply as secretary. Now, she was almost always within his sight. One day, he asked her to follow him in Singapore. She did. At the hotel, he

After being acquitted of murder charges, Rose Hancock Porteous, the housekeeper-turned-millionaire widow, is ready to divorce her fourth husband. She tells all in this engrossing tale of money, greed, controversy and shopping

professed his love and said he'd do anything for her. Rose told him about her estrangement from her daughter. "He listened intently and then patted my hand solicitously. He didn't say one word, but somehow I felt that for the first time in my life I had finally reached safe haven. Thus started the first day of the rest of my life with Langley George Hancock."

ON July 6, 1985, Rosemarie Lacson became the lawfully wedded wife of Hancock, and a certified member of the international set. One of her first duties as Mrs. Hancock was to shop for a new airplane to replace their cramped Learjet. Rose chose a spacious British Aerospace 125 with two bed bunks and a toilet at the back. She changed the interiors to pastel blue and matched it with blue leather seats. Hancock then took her for a look-see at a property that was up for sale. Hancock bought it but Rose also wanted a farm nearby. When Hancock refused, Rose went into tantrums. "I cried the whole day and refused to eat," she writes in her book. In 24 hours, Hancock bought the farm.

The spoiled daughter became a spoiled wife. Hancock enjoyed pampering his 36-year old wife. He gave her a Mercedes Benz 380 SL, lots of jewelry, clothes, money, whatever she wanted. "But I also pampered him," she says in an interview last November. "I attended to his needs personally. There were no maids for him, it was just me."

In 1986, Rose commissioned former journalist Robert Pride to produce a video documentary on Hancock's life for \$180,000. It was a tribute to Hancock and his contribution to Australia, with Rose doing much of the commentaries and narration. Hancock enjoyed the documentary, according to Rose. His health, however, started to deteriorate. In 1991, he was operated on for clogged arteries. He was almost 82.

It was downhill from there. On March, 26, 1992, Rose became frantic when she learned that her own husband had filed for a restraining order forbidding her to go near him. "I harassed him to death, that's what they said." But the next day, Hancock passed away and the restraining order was never served.

THE LEGAL battle for Hancock's A\$20 million (about US\$13 million) fortune turned into a soap opera lapped up by Australia's tabloids. Meanwhile, Rose went on with her life. She married Hancock's friend Porteous, prompting gossip that he was actually her lover even while Hancock was alive. The court scene virtually turned into a circus, with Rose's ex-husband Jay Teodoro turning up to say that she tried to seduce him. Rose countered that Teodoro had been paid by Hancock's daughter, Gina Rinehart, to testify against her. When her ex-mother-in-law asked help for a daughter who had cancer, Rose turned down the request. "She asked for \$5,000, hah! I asked my lawyer, and he said, they might say you bribed them. So I didn't," she hissed. Meantime, Johanna, her own daughter, also went on TV giving a "warts-and-all" interview about her mother, reportedly for US\$25,000. Not surprisingly, Rose also spat poison on her stepdaughter Gina, calling her "fat and ugly!"

The court decision last week may have finally put an end to speculations about her husband's death, but it could be just another episode in the telenovela life of Rose Hancock Porteous. She's richer now and flaunting it, some observers note. While shopping at Rustan's last November, Rose found a shoe she really liked. She ordered the salesclerk to bring out all the shoes with the same design and the same size. She bought them all. Q

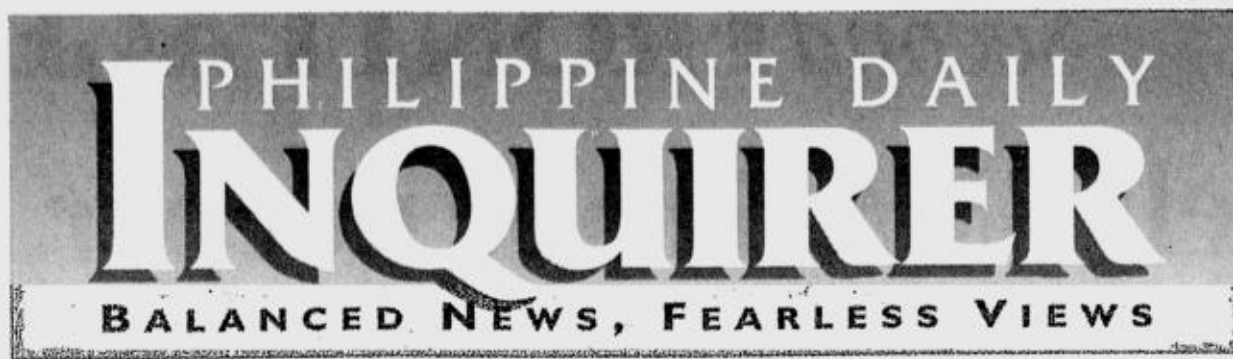


"Imeldific": Coming home last year for a fashion show (above), with third husband Hancock (left) and flaunting it (below)





Canada eases up on pot
TORONTO—A Canadian Senate committee has recommended the decriminalization of marijuana, saying there is no scientific evidence that it leads to crime. CANADA/A6



WHAT'S INSIDE

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Summit OKs Charter revision after 2004

21 political parties agree on Con-con

By Christine Avendaño

TWENTY-ONE political parties agreed yesterday to have the 1987 Constitution amended through a constitutional convention (Con-con) but only after 2004.

The election of delegates to the Con-con will be held simultaneously with the national elections two years from now, said the United Declaration of the First Philippine Political Parties Conference.

"Because of the nature of the revisions required, and the conflicts of interest certain to arise in Congress, there is a strong sentiment in support of a constitutional convention elected in 2004 to propose the changes," the declaration said.

The declaration, issued by the political parties at the end of a three-day political summit at the Manila Hotel, also called for:

- Computerization of elec-

tions in 2004 to put an end to election cheating.

- Absentee balloting to enable 7 million overseas Filipinos to vote in national elections.

- State financing for political parties to reduce political corruption and to prevent the intrusion of drug and gambling lords into the political system.

- Creation of a standing committee to implement the draft and to continue to reach out to the opposition.

As expected, the political parties condemned "machinations and conspiracies and all forms of destabilization."

"We believe that democratic

SUMMIT/A19

GMA, Angara-led opposition losers in political summit

By Amando Doronila

THE THREE-DAY summit of political parties that ended yesterday represents an important attempt to rescue Philippine democracy from the edge of mob anarchy and bring it back to the rails of political action driven by rules and institutions rather than by tumultuous waves of people power demonstrations.

It was a *tour de force* to bring parties back into the center of politics as an organizing mechanism for people's demands.

Symptomatic of the fragility and instability of the party sys-

tem was that the conference limped from a shaky start with the boycott by the main opposition party—the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), the Partidong Demokratikong Pilipino Laban (PDP-Laban—and a few other minor parties.

ANALYSIS

Despite the boycott, the conference went ahead behind the banners of the two leading pro-administration parties—the Lakas-NUCD and the Nationalist People's Coalition—which make up the majority coalition in the House of Representatives. More than a dozen smaller political groups, many

GMA/A18



TOP choices for the top AFP post: (from left) Southern Command chief Roy Cimatu, Vice Chief of Staff Gregorio Camiling and Deputy Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya.

Choice of next AFP chief a tough call for Gloria

FIFTEEN months after crucial military support helped install her in power, President Macapagal-Arroyo faces one of her toughest tests: naming the next Armed Forces chief of staff.

Analysts agree the 55-year-old President can ill afford to make a wrong call at a time when she is struggling to spur the economy to full recovery while working in a fractious political environment. They warned that an unpopular choice on Ms Macapagal's part could provoke discontent within the Armed Forces which, if stoked by politicians, could weaken her grip on power.

"The seeds of military adventurism are still there," former AFP chief and now opposition

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said yesterday, referring to a string of abortive coup attempts by disgruntled army officers in the late 1980s.

The President had earlier said she would announce her choice today, but even as of late yesterday the usually leak-prone presidential Palace remained tightly sealed.

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva retires on May 20, and the most prominent names in the list of possible replacements include those of Vice Chief of Staff Gregorio Camiling, Deputy Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya and Southern Command chief Roy Cimatu.

Cimatu has been reported as the preference of Ms Macapagal and Defense Secretary

CHOICE/A18

Balikatan 02-2 ends; crash victim dies

By Martin P. Marfil

A VICTIM of the F-5 fighter jet crash in Mabalacat, Pampanga, died yesterday of cardiac arrest at the V. Luna hospital in Quezon City, a day before the Balikatan 02-2 was to end.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, Armed Forces public information chief, said the victim, Jesus Rivera, died at 11 a.m. yesterday while undergoing treatment.

Rivera was one of three residents who suffered third-degree burns when the F-5 jet hit the Mabalacat Elementary School in Barangay Poblacion where he and two others were working. The jet exploded in mid-air on Friday.

"Financial assistance will be given to his (Rivera's) family," Mabanta told reporters.

He did not elaborate but a military report said that the Mabalacat disaster coordinating council had met with Air Force representatives to discuss measures to be undertaken, including compensation for those injured and the damage caused by the crash.

The town's engineering office had been tasked to assess the damage, the same report said.

At least 11 persons were reported injured in that crash, including Rivera.

Three of those injured, Rivera, Emilio de la Cruz and Roberto Canlas, suffered serious burns and were brought to the V. Luna hospital.

The fighter jet's pilot, Capt. BALIKATAN/A18



US Marines bid farewell to Filipino soldiers during the closing ceremony of the Balikatan 02-2 war exercises at Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

DENNIS SABANGAN

SECURITY BRIEFING

Another US general visits Basilan

ZAMBOANGA City—US troops training Filipino soldiers in pursuit of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan received another top-ranking visitor yesterday, underscoring the importance the United States attaches to the country's role in the US-led international war on terror.

"Everybody understands the importance of the Philippines," said Lt. Gen. Wallace Gregson, commander of the 3rd Marine

Expeditionary Force, based in Okinawa, Japan. "We know that it's a very difficult situation and we're glad to help in any way that we can, and we are proud to help."

Gregson, the top US Marine commander in the Pacific, is the most recent top-ranking US military official to visit about 1,000 American troops taking part in a six-month counter-terrorism exercise in the Philip-

pinas, demonstrating the priority Washington has placed on the second front of its global campaign against terrorism.

Gen. Richard Myers, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the highest-ranking officer in the US military, visited last week, while Adm. Dennis Blair, head of the US Pacific Command, came last month.

Gregson was ferried to ANOTHER/A6



FAREWELL DINNER

UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura (second from left) is honored during a farewell dinner hosted by The Philippine Star in San Juan. With him are Max Soliven, Star chair and publisher; Preciosa Soliven, UNESCO Philippine National Commission secretary general; and Prof. Stephen Hill, regional director of the Asia Cluster.



Second FRONT PAGE

Priests tell GMA: Probe deeper, go to Basilan to solve Abu problem

Pierantoni kidnapping backfired on Filipinos in Italy

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ZAMBOANGA CITY—Senior Church leaders here have urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to probe deeper into why the military, with considerable help from paramilitary forces and United States troops, has not been able to solve the decade-old Abu Sayyaf problem in Basilan.

Fr. Angel Calvo, a Claretian missionary who has served in Basilan, noted that there were almost 7,000 government troops, 12 companies of Citizens Armed Forces Geo-

graphical Unit, 500 US forces, almost 1,000 police troops and an undetermined number of civilian volunteers directed at the anti-Abu Sayyaf campaign.

And yet they still "could not track and get a handful of bandits numbering about 40," he said.

"I think the President or the national government should analyze this situation in Basilan," Calvo said.

Fr. Bernardo Blanco, himself a kidnap victim and a member of the Claretian Missionary Fathers (CMF), has similar thoughts.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo and the government must study, go to Basilan and see for themselves the circumstances of what is happening there," Blanco said.

He said the 300,000 people

of Basilan were in a terrible situation which "forbids the progress of the province."

"We should always be reminded that we cannot solve the problem in Basilan in a military way, it's important that we go to the root of the problem and solve it," said Zamboanga Archbishop Carmelo Morelos who celebrated the mass for the late Fr. Rhoel Gallardo last Friday.

Gallardo, a Claretian missionary priest, was kidnapped and killed by Abu Sayyaf bandits two years ago.

Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad said that even with the large number of military troops in the province, "the Abu Sayyaf still exists."

Lamitan priest Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, another former Abu Sayyaf hostage, recalled how 20 years ago the Philippine Constabulary, with just one battalion covering the entire province, "could maintain peace and order and could catch a suspected criminal, even if the suspect hid in the thickly forested areas of the Sampinit complex." **Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

THE NOTORIETY of the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping spree has apparently crossed continents and affected even the welfare of overseas Filipino workers, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said.

Sto. Tomas, who recently returned from an aggressive marketing mission for Filipino workers in Europe, said the abduction of Italian priest Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni last year had stalled talks with the Italian government for the granting of social security benefits to Filipino workers in Italy.

But the labor secretary said she managed to revive the talks, which had been suspended after Pierantoni was kidnapped, while in Rome during her six-country European tour from April 1 to 20.

Pierantoni was released by the Abu Sayyaf bandits last month reportedly after the payment of a P2-million ransom.

She said the Italian government has agreed to work out a readmission agreement with the Philippines for the regularization of the OFWs there, most of whom are employed in households and health centers.

Sto. Tomas said the 130,000 Filipino workers would enjoy the same social security benefits as regular workers in Italy once the agreement is finalized within the year.

Sto. Tomas was also able to initiate an agreement on social security benefits for OFWs in Germany, where around 40,000 Filipinos work in various sectors.

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Don't support Abu Sayyaf, military warns MILF rebels

TABIWAN, Isabela, Basilan—Military officials warned a group of reformed Muslim separatist rebels yesterday against supporting the extremist Abu Sayyaf group.

In ceremonies on Basilan island, where 145 former members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front received small checks to get started in civilian life, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu told the former rebels they would be given amnesty.

"They are not supposed to give sanctuary to the Abu Sayyaf," Cimatu said. About another 40 MILF guerrillas who have not yet surrendered were giving aid to the extremists, he said.

"If they come back to folds of the law, they should really become good citizens, productive citizens."

He said the policy of reconciliation and amnesty is "not applicable" to the Abu Sayyaf, who have holding Martin and Gracia Burnham, a missionary couple from Wichita, Kansas, and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap for nearly a year on Basilan.

"If they surrender, they will surrender straight to jail," he said.

Basilan Rep. Jerry Salapuddin, a former Muslim separatist commander who surrendered in 1984, asked the former guerrillas to help protect US military engineers constructing roads on Basilan, one of the country's poorest provinces.

About 1,000 US soldiers are involved in a counterterrorism exercise with Filipino troops aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf.

They include 160 Special Forces soldiers and 340 US military engineers on Basilan.

"You will not regret (surrendering). I am your living example," Salapuddin said. "I appeal to you that now that you are with the government to help the government."

Usoh Gapur, commander of the group, said he and his followers surrendered two months ago after experiencing hardships and hunger in the jungle. He had been a rebel for about

Palace defends GMA plans

SO what's wrong if President Macapagal-Arroyo were to run in 2004?

"It's nothing to be ashamed of," said Liberal Party leaders who noted that everyone seemed to know that the President would indeed run.

Despite Ms Macapagal's repeated denials, at least two presidential advisers have confirmed her plans to seek a full term in 2004.

And as far as Malacañang is concerned, "there is nothing to be defensive about," according to Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afafe.

"Of course there is nothing wrong (with running in 2004) but the President is maintaining her position that there are no plans and preparations for 2004," Afafe said.

He said the President was reluctant to confirm her election plans as it might prove divisive.

"She does not want to start another round of politicking, and political bickering and jockeying that would follow such a statement," he said.

Ms Macapagal's refusal to confirm her election plans was "her prerogative," he said.

"I don't think any political group can compel her to make such a political statement," Afafe said. **Carlito Pablo**

30 years. Bensali Lagasan, a spokesperson for the group, refused to

comment when asked about the Abu Sayyaf. "All we know is that

they are very popular," he said. "We do not even communicate with them." **AP**

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From page A1

Basilan for a security briefing on the ongoing joint exercises against the Abu Sayyaf bandits. Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu, chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command, and Basilan Rep. Jerry Salapuddin welcomed Gregson at a Philippine Army base on Basilan where some of the Americans have been deployed.

The two officials offered thanks for road and port improvements, wells and the clearing of an unused airstrip. The government has made development in the Muslim-dominated south a top priority, saying the area's wrenching poverty breeds extremists like the Abu Sayyaf.

Gregson inspected a road project before meeting US officers in a Marine outpost that American soldiers have named "Camp John Bradley."

Canada eases up on pot

From page A1

to harder drugs.

After more than a year of studying the issue, the committee released its preliminary report last week and announced plans to hold public hearings before releasing its final report in August.

The committee chair, Sen. Pierre Claude Nolin, said about one-third of Canadians between the ages of 15 and

24 used cannabis last year. Despite this, scientific evidence suggests marijuana is not a "gateway" to harder drugs such as cocaine and heroin.

Marijuana, he said, should be treated "more like alcohol or tobacco than like the harder drugs," as it is under US federal law.

Prompted by a series of court decisions upholding the right of people to use marijuana as a means of reducing seizures and nausea, Canada has issued medical marijuana licenses to more than 800 people

since 1999, according to Andrew Swift of Canada's Ministry of Health.

Police also tolerate so-called compassion clubs offering medical marijuana illegally.

In British Columbia, which produces most of the nation's illegal marijuana, some cafes openly declare themselves "smoke easies," where marijuana smoke but not tobacco is allowed.

Some Canadian studies have added fuel to the decriminalization movement. A University of Toronto study released in January

said that while drunk and stoned drivers were both impaired, stoned operators recognized their impairment and drove more cautiously than drunk drivers.

Last month, the Canadian Center for Substance Abuse released a three-year study into crime and substance abuse. The study found that drug use was a major factor in economic crimes such as theft and shoplifting, while alcoholics were twice as likely as drug users to have committed violent

crimes.

Alcohol was the main contributing factor in 34 percent of the homicides, 30 percent of the attempted homicides and 39 percent of the assaults studied, according to the report.

When drugs were mixed with alcohol, the numbers jump by another 24 percent. But drugs alone, the study found, were a main factor in less than 10 percent of the violent crimes.

"If you look at this study, the first thing you would do is prohibit alcohol," said Richard Garlick, a spokesperson for the center. "The thing that's really causing the most serious crime is the drug that's readily available to anyone at any time."

The Senate will likely hear widespread support for decriminalization.

More than 30 years ago, a Canadian government commission was the first official body to recommend ending the prohibition on marijuana.

More recently, the Canadian Medical Association Journal, in an editorial, said marijuana use had "minimal negative health effects," but criminal sanctions against the drug had resulted in major social and legal costs.

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that decisions were promulgated in the following cases on the date indicated.

DARAB Case no.	Title	Date Promulgated
5335	Ricardo Gulla & Emencia Menos vs. Sps. Romeo Alejandro and Elizabeth Orara	November 6, 2000
4348	Elisimo Ocampo et al vs Nina Quismundo	August 7, 1997

Counsels and parties to these cases, especially the following persons:

DARAB Case No.	Party/Counsel	Last known Address
5335	Ricardo Gulla Sps. Romeo Alejandro & Elizabeth Orara Atty. Aladdin Trinidad	San Isidro, Cauayan, Isabela C/o Liwayway Publishing Inc. 2249 Pasong Tamo, Makati City
4348	Nina Quismundo	2296 Cervera St., Makati City

are hereby advised to get a copy of the decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed and Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on these cases shall become final and executory.

May 2, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
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May 6, 2002 - Inquirer

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Tancangco calls charges 'rehashed and false'

COMELEC Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco yesterday said she was willing to face any investigating body to defend herself against what she claimed were "rehashed and false accusations" by parties with a "vested interest" in her post.

The National Movement for Free Elections, the private election watchdog, has

begun impeachment moves against Tancangco by circulating a summary of charges in the schools and non-government organizations to gather signatures.

Tancangco denied admitting to the alleged irregularities which Namfrel cited in its summary of charges.

She said the charges of negligence and betrayal of public trust, which are the bases for seeking her impeachment in Congress, were merely part of a concerted effort to discredit her in the Comelec, where leads a faction of commissioners opposed to Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo.

She also claimed to have already answered the charges before some legislators and the media concerning the issues of her wasting of public funds on non-viable elections modernization projects.

"My actions in office have always been based on the best interest of our voting public and on giving political rivals equal opportunity of winning or losing in political contests," Tancangco said in a statement.

She said she had no qualms about facing the Namfrel or any other parties accusing her to remove all doubts about her capability and good intentions in the Comelec, to which she was appointed by jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada in 1998.

Tancangco and her allies in the Comelec—commissioner Mehol Sadain, Ralph Lantion and Rufino Javier—have been stubborn in championing the controversial Voters Registration and Identification System, a P6.5-billion modernization project that Benipayo and his allies, commissioner Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason, are opposing.

The VRIS is one of the biggest issues dividing the two camps.

A Quezon City court has ruled in favor of the Photokina-led consortium that won the bidding to implement the VRIS project and compelled the Comelec to effect the contract.

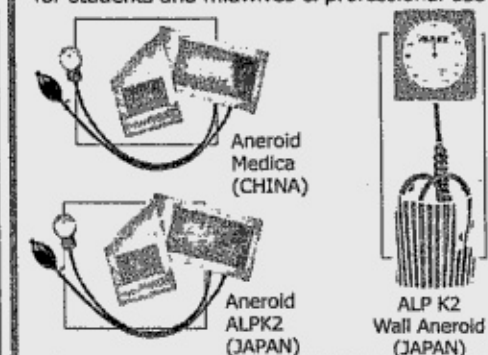
The Benipayo camp has taken the case to the Supreme Court. **Blanche S. Rivera**

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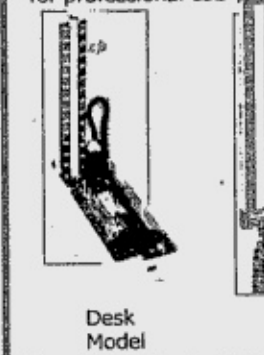
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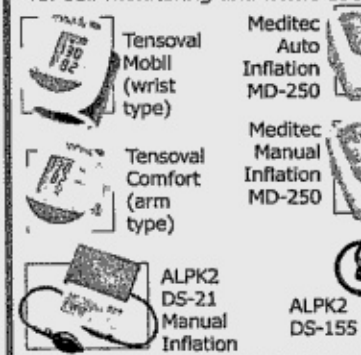
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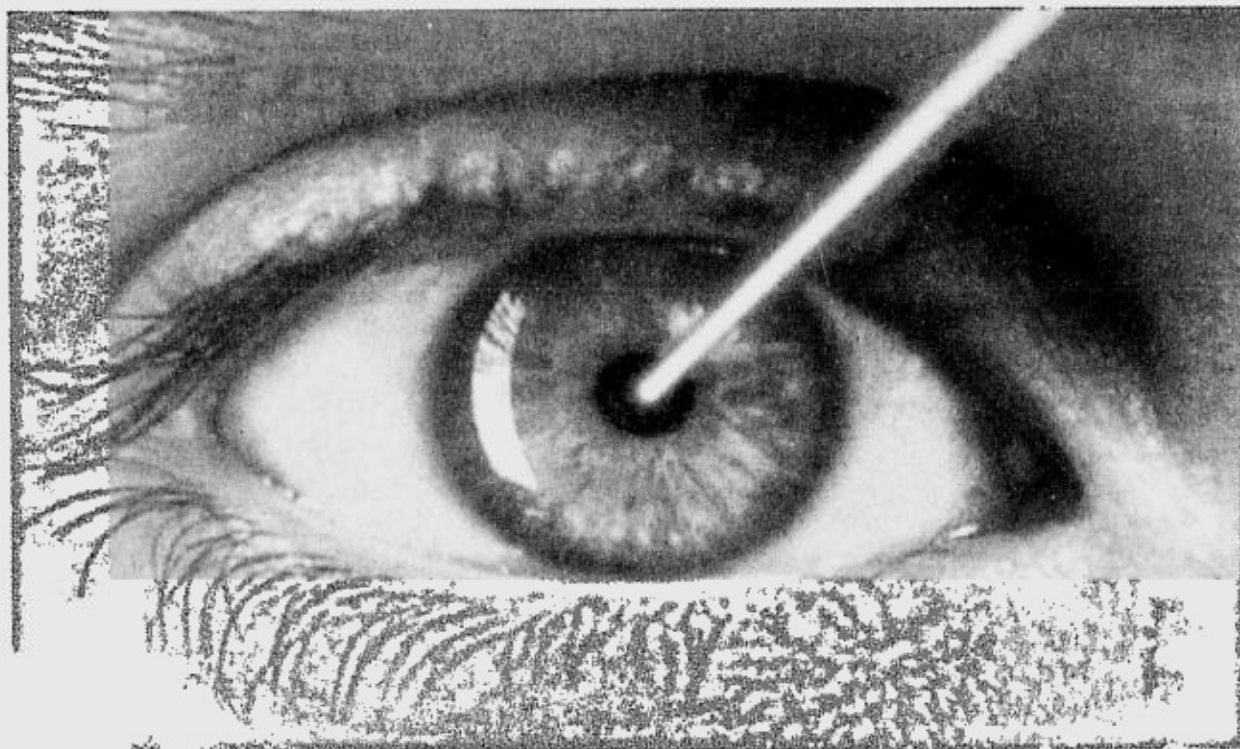
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Democracy on trial?

THE COMMENT contributed by former University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva, which the INQUIRER published on the front page last Friday to mark the start of the first-ever national political summit, raises a disturbing question.

No one will quarrel with Abueva's inain argument, that the "monumental challenge" facing the country today is the urgent need to transform our "procedural democracy" into a "substantive" one. Even those on either extreme of the political spectrum will agree, although we can be sure their definitions of substantiveness will vary.

What is unsettling about Abueva's analysis is that, in making the case for "nothing less than the transformation of our political system," which not coincidentally accords with the summit's main proposal to revise the Constitution, it seems to open itself even to the violent alternative.

Abueva says the results of the survey he conducted for the UP Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy last November tell us, "quietly but clearly," that Filipinos are "becoming disenchanted with our kind of democracy and system of government." He says that, nationwide, 42 percent of the population is dissatisfied with "the way democracy works in our country," a plurality, while a statistically similar number, 43 percent, also a plurality, is not "proud of the system of government of the Philippines." (The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent.)

These findings make intuitive sense; they are of a piece with the anecdotal evidence. The reported "disenchantment" (a quaint choice of words, because it implies a time when Filipinos were under the spell of the miraculous powers of the ballot box) also provides support for those who favor Charter change. That is why the analysis found a receptive audience among summit delegates.

But because Abueva has concentrated his fire, as it were, on the survey findings that best help the case for constitutional change, his report unwittingly supplies ammunition even to those who favor change through violence. He notes, for example, that 72 percent of Filipinos agree on "the possibility that Filipinos will completely lose faith in peaceful means of promoting democracy." This, Abueva says, is a "clear warning" that time is running out on "politics as usual."

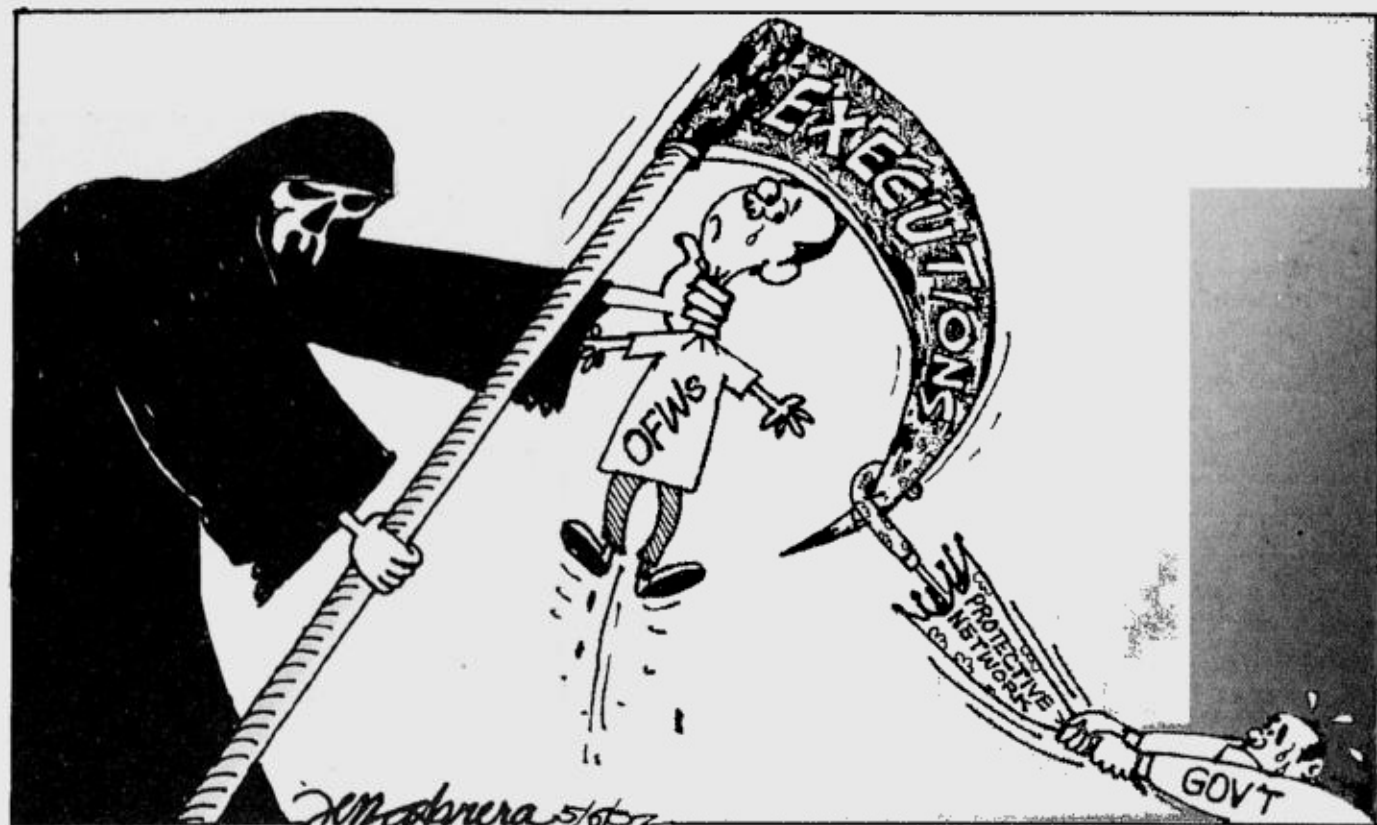
This warning, however, is not clear at all; it is in fact as ambiguous as the key words used in the UP survey.

When people say they are dissatisfied with democracy, does this mean they are willing to risk the alternative? But with such a resonant word as "democracy," what is the alternative? The rule of a junta? The despotism of an autocrat? Or the dictatorship of the proletariat? We can be certain that the great majority of Filipinos will say None of the Above. The lack of "pride" (again a curious choice of words) in the present system of government may be readily read as approval for a parliamentary form of government. Or it may not. The point is, the words are as ambiguous as tea leaves. We can read in them what we choose to see.

Abueva, one of the country's pre-eminent political scientists and chair of the committee on constitutional continuity and change of the Philippine Political Science Association, does not advocate violent change, of course. His analysis dutifully notes that a clear majority of 72 percent still thinks that "democracy is the best political system in all circumstances." But this is the kind of detail that, in the politicians' rush to apply the latest statistics to political ambition, gets lost in the translation.

It is best to read last Friday's analysis in the light of another opinion piece which Abueva wrote earlier this year; it appeared in our Opinion section on Feb. 17. In it, he discussed "the people's views and opinions on the nation's three uprisings at Edsa in Metro Manila since 1986" in the perspective of the same November 2001 survey. His findings are tonic, because it shows not only that "the great majority of Filipino adults affirm that they know and understand people power," but also that 71 percent of the people said people power strengthens "the political power of the majority of Filipinos."

"People power is now part of Filipino political culture and behavior," Abueva wrote then. In our fitful transition to substantive democracy, that is the true starting point, and the main source of hope.



Not a 'political summit' but a 'political sum-meet'

THE MEETING at the Manila Hotel among political parties turned out not to be a "political summit" but a "political sum-meet." Sen. Aquilino Pimentel revealed that his party, the PDP-Laban, was told to contribute P300,000 for 10 delegates to the meeting. That amounts to P30,000 per delegate for three days, or P10,000 a day for each delegate. That's a big sum. That does not include hotel accommodations. That's only for food and drinks, which is a stiff price even for the Manila Hotel. No wonder PDP-Laban and LDP and poverty-stricken political parties like Bayan Muna preferred to boycott the "sum-meet."

"Somebody must be raising funds," Pimentel said.

Twenty political parties with 10 delegates each makes 200 delegates times P30,000 each equals P6 million. Not bad.

It also turned out that the summit was unnecessary. The declaration of the pow-wow had already been written even before the meeting began. All that was needed was to have the delegates agree to it. And who would not agree to it when the whole purpose of the exercise was to change the Constitution? And who among the politicians there would not agree to changing the Constitution when the No. 1 change would be to shift to a parliamentary system of government—besides of course removing the term limits for elective officials and making the taxpayers subsidize the political parties.

That means the congressmen—who made up most of the delegates—who have not a whiff of a chance to be elected president will have a chance to become prime minister. Instead of buying the votes of the voters, all one has to do is buy the votes of the Members of Parliament (MPs), most of whom would be the congressmen at the "sum-meet." Imagine how much each vote for the prime minister, the head of government in a parliamentary system, would cost. The MPs would be wallowing in money, certainly at the expense of the taxpayers and businessmen who would pass on to the consumers the cost of their contributions, besides asking for special favors from the government.

I DON'T know if Jose Abueva's original title for his article last Friday was "Filipinos disenchanting with democracy—UP survey." His article itself seems to suggest something a little more complex.

In one instance, he says: "While 72 percent of our survey respondents (of 1,200 citizens 18 years old and above) still affirm that 'Democracy is the best political system in all circumstances,' 72 percent still also agree 'on the possibility that Filipinos will completely lose faith in peaceful means of promoting democracy.'" That by no means indicates that Filipinos are disenchanted with democracy. If it indicates anything, it is that Filipinos are disenchanted with the way democracy in this country is being promoted. That suggests something further, which is that our democracy is not something finished or whole, it is still something that needs to be completed or achieved.

That is borne out by other portions of Abueva's article. To the statement, "On the whole, I am satisfied with the way democracy works in our country," only 34 percent agreed while 42 percent disagreed. To the statement, "I am proud of the system of government of the Philippines," only 32 percent agreed while 43 percent disagreed. Neither result naturally leads to the conclusion that Filipinos are disenchanted with democracy. I for one am not disenchanted with democracy, but had I been one of the respondents of that survey, I would have disagreed with both statements myself. I am not satisfied with the way democracy works in this country. And I am not proud of our system of government. But that is only because I do not think that what isn't working in this country, which is our system of government, is substantive democracy.

What all this should show is that the problem is far more complex than can be reduced to simple statements about Filipinos believing or not believing (or no longer believing) in democracy. I grant that many Filipinos express their disaffection in terms of, "Democracy has failed us, maybe we should experi-

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



of the new, grateful PM.

That also means the Senate would be abolished. While that would be no great loss, considering the quality, or lack of it, of most of the present senators, still can you imagine what a legislature composed of the present congressmen would be like? At least the Senate can repair whatever stupid legislation the lower House passes, but in a parliamentary system there would be no upper House to check and balance the abuses and stupidities of the MPs.

And aren't we having too many summits already? As former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said, we just had the *jueting* summit, before that the peace and order summit, the anti-poverty summit, the housing summit, the economic summit and other *samo*-sari, but what did they achieve? Nothing except spend the people's money.

In the alleged "consultations" that the congressmen will hold, tell them forcefully and in no uncertain words that you don't want a Charter change. That's not likely to do much good because what they will do is issue press releases that the people are overwhelmingly in favor of a Charter change. So if the new Constitution is submitted to a plebiscite, go out and vote No!

The impeachment threat by Namfrel against Comelec Commissioner Luzviminda Tancanco is very suspiciously timed. It came immediately after the four majority commissioners led by Tancanco filed new charges against the confirmation of Chair Alfredo Benipayo and the two other minority commissioners. The four are scheduled to file another charge for the alleged "padding of the existing Computerized

Voters Lists (CVLs) and the proposed implications of the proposed five-day special registration for the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections on the integrity of the regular CVLs."

The majority commissioners have outlined specific cases wherein Benipayo apparently ignored the constitutional body's time-honored rules on collegiality and stubbornly pushed decisions which should have been decided by the Comelec en banc. Examples were the purchase of a luxury vehicle for his own use, unlawful appointments and transfers of key Comelec officials, refusal to promulgate duly signed en banc resolutions and failure to submit the Comelec's proposed budget to the body en banc.

Perhaps Benipayo is the wrong man to head a collegial body like the Commission on Elections. As a former judge and court administrator of the Supreme Court, he is used to making decisions alone. His word was law in his former positions. He has not been able to adjust to the Comelec where decisions must be decided by the whole commission. This is the reason for the tawdry spectacle of the four incumbent commissioners, for the first time in history, filing their opposition to their acting chair's confirmation by the Commission on Appointments.

Indeed, Benipayo had been criticized by many quarters for his failure to unify the Comelec into a cohesive collegial body. No less than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo herself has termed Benipayo's squabbles with the four incumbent commissioners as due to a "personality problem."

There is an ancient Chinese proverb that says that it is easier to change the face of a mountain than to change the personality of one who is already set in his ways. If Benipayo does have a personality problem, it may be wishful thinking to hope that his quirks which have alienated the majority commissioners would disappear once he and his two allies are confirmed by the CA. Rather, it is more likely that the Comelec will continue to reel in conflict and disarray, an increasingly dangerous specter leading up to the 2004 presidential elections.

Looking for democracy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



ment with other systems." Surprisingly, I've heard this expressed more often among rich and middle class circles than among proletarian ones. Our own leaders are guilty of it, now and then airing wistful thoughts about whether we're not better off having a Lee Kuan Yew, or someone who may not tolerate civil rights but who will not tolerate corruption as well. Indeed, who wonder quite explicitly if we're not better off having a principled authoritarianism over a thoroughly unprincipled democracy.

Every time I hear this, I am tempted to retort, "Why don't you try living in Singapore?" But I hold back because that is probably like punishing a turtle by trying to drown him in the sea, as the monkey did in a local fable. Many Filipinos would not mind trading off freedom for porridge, having too much of the first and too little of the second. We realize the value of what we have only after we lose it, as when Marcos declared martial law.

I merely end up saying: "While we're on the subject of looking for better systems, why don't we try democracy?" The irony is often lost though, or needs explaining.

We do have a democracy, but it is a most flawed and imperfect one. It is one that is more honored in the letter than in the spirit, in the form than in the substance. You do not have to look far to see this, the street offers plentiful evidence of it. You know you do not have democracy when cops stop traffic to get a congressman to the airport on time, when the poor rather than the rich pay their taxes, when the sons (or "scions," as media like to call them) of rich families literally get away with murder.

These do not just represent two differently endowed sectors, these represent two different worlds. One governed by privilege, the other by deprivation.

The very phrase used to describe the kind of democracy we have shows its flawed aspect—"elite democracy." As awesome, or awful, a contradiction in terms as you can get. But which is pretty graphic in referring to a political or social system that is democratic in form but elite in substance. We have free elections, we have civil liberties, we have laws. But we also have a few families controlling the country's wealth, we have a culture that allows government officials to treat public domain as booty, we have one set of laws for the poor and another for the rich. We have in sum the formal properties of a democracy but the substantive elements of an autocracy.

I have my own theories about how our democracy became so. But they are another story, or column. Suffice it to say at this point that what we are referring to when we express disaffection with our "system of government" or with "the way democracy works in this country" is not democracy itself but our particular brand of democracy. One that is not characterized by egalitarianism and a strong and articulate people but by a secular caste system with the majority of the people effectively turned by poverty and ignorance into pariahs.

The choice is not merely between authoritarianism and the kind of democracy we have. And in any case it is flirting with suicide to imagine there is such a thing as a "benign authoritarianism." That is an even bigger contradiction in terms than "elite democracy." There is one other alternative, and that is to fight for true democracy. That is to push "elite democracy" into, as some NGOs put it, "popular democracy." Call it "popular," call it "substantive," call it "functional," the essence is the same, a democracy in spirit and not merely in name.

The choice is not merely between remaining stationary and going backward. There is always the path of going forward.

Politicians and civil society groups work together

LEAFING through the 11-page "United Declaration" of the "First Philippine Political Parties Conference" as crafted by the drafting committee headed by Makati Rep. Teddyboy Locsin and signed by the majority of the national and regional political parties and a number of party-list groups at yesterday's closing ceremonies, I got the feeling that I was going through a State of the Nation Address. The political summit presented a vision of the Philippines the parties want to build, the Philippines that got waylaid in a maze of reasons, factors and excuses; and the steps they want to take to achieve the Philippines that can be. In pursuit of this vision of a better Philippines, the parties committed to specific, concrete programs of action, and one reason they could hope to do this is the fact that they have access to the budget and could enact the appropriate legislation.

It would matter much, too, I suppose, that Speaker Jose de Venecia, the summit organizer, is at the helm of the House. As former Ambassador Joe Romero, listening to the summit declaration, put it, all the lofty ideals and ideas aired in that historic conference would disappear like tomorrow's morning mist if Congress can't substantiate them with a joint resolution. Romero noted that since the beginning of Congress, there have been only eight joint resolutions of Congress; one of them, Joint Resolution No. 2, the Magna Carta for Social Justice and Economic Freedom in the early '70s, just before the dissolution of Congress in the martial law regime, led to the creation of the National Economic and Development Authority as well as the Board of Investments.

Much has been distilled as the product of the politicians' collective minds, energies and wisdom, but can they be concretized in Congress so that they could impact on the nation's welfare? Assuming the House can pass a resolution in support of the summit's visions and goals, would the Senate cooperate? Only Senators John Osmeña, Kiko Pangilinan and Robert Barbers showed up in those three days, while the Senate opposition led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, who had earlier pro-

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



posed four of the six major issues in the summit agenda, made a disappearing act on the eve, in the paranoid belief that he and fellow oppositionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson were under threat of arrest by the administration.

The effort was there to concretize goals. For instance, the signatories committed to enact an absentee voting law within the month and full automation of elections by 2004. They also committed to substantially increase the appropriations for the judiciary in the next national budget in return for which they expect "decisive reforms" in the judiciary. The summitters also promised to match the 19-20 percent of the budget that our neighbor-states spend on basic education, and to "discipline" computer and other schools that fail to impart "employable" skills to their students and the college assurance plans that connive in the faulty education. Recognizing that reducing significantly mass poverty would take 10 years with an average growth rate of 7 percent—something "hard but not impossible to achieve"—the summit recognized that the reduction of poverty and the delivery of urgent basic services would entail more government funding, which means, among others, strict enforcement of tax laws and plugging loopholes "that permit taxes to be avoided as soon as they are discovered."

Some of the summit's promises appear readily enforceable by Congress, for after all, it is composed of the political parties, but some are not. For instance, how do the parties propose to end "the participation of elements of the military and the police, as well as local government officials, in kidnapping, the narcotic drug trade and other organized crimes?"

The national leaders who addressed the summit pleaded for unity among the parties. President Macapagal stressed to them that "Democratic practice connotes constant debates on all issues affecting the public interest," as differentiated from "constant combat that first puts the life of the constitutional order on the line at every turn." For his part, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, addressing the summit's close, congratulated the political parties for "rising above partisanship" and for accepting part of the blame for the current dissatisfactory state of political affairs here. He also reminded the political parties how, in times of crisis, American political leaders argued and reasoned not as Republicans and Democrats but as Americans. Meaning, that in times such as Sept. 11, 2001 and beyond, the American leaders stayed together. On the other hand, former President Ramos hammered on his favorite theme about the need for the Philippines to become truly competitive if it is not to be constantly left behind in this age of stiff global competition. Speaker De Venecia, in his closing remarks, expanded on that theme by citing how Lee Kuan Yew rallied the various elements in Singapore 30 years ago to make the transition from Third World to First World, and how Dr. Mahathir Mohamad is targeting Malaysia becoming First World by 2020.

The question is, can the political parties hack their way to unity for the sake of the country, to tackle the major problem of poverty-alleviation? At this stage, it does not look too promising, considering how the opposition abandoned the summit on its eve. But one positive development, as De Venecia noted in his closing speech, was how for the first time, two groups that historically have been anathema to each other, the politicians and the civil society groups, who loathe each other as dirty and corrupt, and holier-than-thou dogooders, respectively, united in the summit, as they worked very closely in the pre-conference meetings in past weeks and in the workshops. This gives us some hope.

Reflections on Bayang and Karbala

TRUTH. Freedom. Justice. These are values for which men and women everywhere throughout the ages fight and die for.

On May 3 a hundred years ago, 300 to 400 brave Maranaos were killed in Bayang, Lanao. Among them were the Sultans of Bayang and Pandapatan.

Resisting about 1,200 American troops, they fiercely brandished their *kampilan*s against the Yankees' Krag rifles and virtually marched to their death. To succeeding generations, those men of valor were considered martyrs. The "*kuta*" where they fell earned the moniker "Parang Karbala" after the Iraqi valley where more than a millennium earlier, Imam Hussain, the grandson of the Final Messenger of Allah, and 72 of his companions welcomed martyrdom at the hands of the rascals of Caliph Yazid, the epitome of a Satanic ruler in Muslim popular lore.

The line that divides martyrdom from sheer ferocity is defined in Islamic culture by the intention of the participants.

The Muslim martyrs of Karbala, like the Jews in Masada, knew beforehand that the odds against them were overwhelming and martyrdom was sure. They were, however, given no other path but that of supreme sacrifice. Any easier way would be only at the expense of the values that they held dear.

In Bayang, the Maranao martyrs reenacted this recurring theme in human history. For this, their descendants properly deserve the centennial celebration held recently in honor of their fallen forbears.

Lest non-Muslims affirm the misconception that Islam only encourages war and frowns upon peace and compromise, there are also instances when peace and compromise are only the right

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Datu Amir Baraguir



In Bayang, the Maranao martyrs reenacted this recurring theme in human history. For this, their descendants properly deserve the centennial celebration held recently in honor of their fallen forbears

paths. Prophet Muhammad—peace and blessings be upon him—entered into an onerous treaty with the pagan rulers of Makkah to the chagrin of the war-like but unwise members of his flock. Except when the very foundations of a civilization are at stake, peace should be foremost in the mind of an authentic Muslim leader. Though it is more difficult to swallow one's pride than to engage in battle, a wise and pious imam, nabi, sultan or sheikh should choose the former when the situation demands. When the survival of the values

that a community is not threatened by extinction in case of armistice, a leader is duty-bound to think of the personal welfare and safety of his constituents. The Islamic Way against recklessly staking the lives and properties of his followers just to satisfy his pride and misplaced sense of heroism proscribes him.

In Karbala, Imam Hussein prepared himself for the supreme act of heroism—dying in defense of truth, freedom, justice and all the good values that Islam stands for. These values were extremely threatened because the de facto ruler of the Islamic *ummah* personified falsehood, injustice, tyranny and all that stood against Islam. Given that, a person of integrity had to stand up and speak at the risk of martyrdom. Someone had to reiterate the essential values of the Faith as opposed to the practice of the Court. Imam Hussein—upon whom be peace—was such a man. But even then he avoided any tinge of unconcern for his flock. On the eve of his martyrdom, the event known in Muslim history and tradition as Ashura, he held a solemn discourse with his followers. After praising them of the origin, nature and goal of the act they have to perform and duly weighing up the odds, he ordered the lights be put off and said: "Those who are not ready to die may leave in peace. Use the darkness of the night to cover your shame. Tomorrow, we are going to die."

Thus, those who were not absolutely set at accompanying their leader to the slaughter were allowed to leave and live. War in Islam, whether it ends in victory or slaughter, is an instrument of last resort. To the martyrs of Karbala, in Bayang as in Iraq, Peace and Blessings of the Most Merciful.

Comments to datuamir@columnist.com

One billion hours nailing our shoes to the floor

AFTER CAREFULLY studying the matter for several months, and talking to literally hundreds of people about it, both inside and outside the Department of Education, and in the public and private schools all over the country, I have come to a conclusion. There is a terrible deficiency in the new 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC), which will surely haunt Education Secretary Raul Roco, and the entire nation for generations to come, if it is not corrected.

I refer to the massive cuts in teaching time allocated to science subjects in public high schools, where the daily time allocation for each subject has been slashed by a whopping 25 percent, from 80 minutes per day in the old curriculum, to 60 minutes per day in the new curriculum. In elementary school, the science subjects presently taught in Grades 1 and 2 have been simply deleted from the new curriculum altogether. Deleted. Removed. Salvaged. As in, no science subject at all for Grade 1 and Grade 2 pupils in the public school system.

Tell me, does this make sense to you? These are illogical and foolhardy changes considering that the Philippines is practically dead last in student learning of mathematics and science, according to several authoritative global studies. The logic of DepEd escapes me, where it insists on the paradoxical brainteaser, that less time studying science in school can still lead to more learning of it by the students. Even in kindergarten, our first school teachers never told us to study less when we couldn't recite the correct answer. They always told us to study more. *'Di ba?*

That is why, none of the fancy jargon that has come out of the DepEd has convinced me. No amount of "collaborative teaching" or "interactive curriculum development" or "experiential learning" can make up for 20 minutes per day, 100 minutes per week, 400 minutes per month, 4,800 minutes per year times tens of millions of students worth of skipped education. The new curriculum will result in about one billion hours that Filipino

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

students will not be studying science anymore this coming year alone compared to last year. All that learning foregone, all that built-in ignorance, for what?

Do we really have to pilot and evaluate this one? At the end of the 2002-2003 pilot year for the BEC, is there any doubt in anyone's mind what the practical result will be? After a billion hours of teachers not teaching, and students not studying the affected subjects of health, environment and earth science, biology, chemistry and physics, does anyone expect the Filipinos to be catching up or falling behind the rest of the world?

It is useless crafting defensive rationalizations for the ugly picture of ourselves that something like the 1999 Third International Mathematics and Science Study paints of us (where the average of our 6,000 Filipino participants was third from the last out of the national averages 38 countries in which a total of half a million students took standardized tests).

It is not the embarrassment of the test scores that should disturb us. Someone has to be at the tail end. There's no shame in that unless it is self-inflicted. What really is ominous is the predictive, may I say prophetic, nature of the test results for the future of the Philippines as a society and a nation, unless something is done.

Despite the President's avowed dedication to education in science and technology as a means of making the country more globally competitive, her education department is marching in the other direction altogether.

Now here's the part, where after shooting ourselves in the foot like this, we may also decide to nail our shoes to the floor.

In its infinite wisdom, the legislature has seen to it that once a curriculum change is implemented, it cannot be undone for 10 years or more. You see, a change in the official curriculum of the public school system entails a massive adjustment and reorganization by everyone and everything involved in the system. It's a little like changing the Constitution. Lots of people are affected and a tremendous amount of work has to go into implementation.

So enforcing a "minimum fixed term" on any new curriculum can prevent political appointees from wreaking havoc by constantly changing it. But this safeguard is a double-edged sword. If a defective curriculum is implemented, such as the 2002 BEC, we will also be stuck with it for a very long time. I find it daunting to think that it will already take many, many years yet to create a culture and society friendly to mathematics and science, without which the young are never inspired to learn about these admittedly difficult subjects. Now this.

Which brings me back to Secretary Roco, who is said to be eying the presidency in 2004, and is the sentimental favorite of certain parts of civil society because of his cerebral style and principled stand as a legislator and senator-judge in Erap's trial.

Sir, this is the part where you get to show your executive potential by comprehending and appreciating a complex issue and taking inspired, and inspiring, action, for the ultimate good of the nation. (Please don't hide behind the skirts of your curriculum committee, as their consciences are bothered enough by what you and they, have wrought.) At least restore the deleted subjects in elementary school and reverse the time reduction in high school. Give us a reason to think that you can wisely run all the departments of the government, not just one. Or else, pick up your hammer and nails at the DepEd commissary.

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Some errors

FROM THE POINT of view of Cecilia Aguilar of Mandaluyong City, the May 2 issue of the *INQUIRER* was a big disappointment in terms of proofreading and news presentation.

She said the beautiful layout of the newspaper, in particular, the front page, was marred by five errors that could have been avoided had the editors and reporters been more diligent in their work.

First on her list was the opening paragraph of the banner story ("Security dragnet keeps the peace") which reads: "Yield not an inch of ground. This was the instruction that kept the peace on Labor Day. But at what price?"

The reader questioned the propriety of the last sentence. She considered it "a form of editorializing that should not have been included in the news. Your reporter injected his opinion in the preparations of the police authorities. It was not a quote from any news source and neither was there any item in the news that would justify its inclusion in the paragraph."

My comment: I agree with the reader's observation. The sentence expressed the reporter's opinion about the effects of such preparations. Although couched as a rhetorical question, it reflected the writer's misgivings about the extra strict enforcement of security measures.

The news should have reported the events as they happened, straight and unembellished. It is up to the readers to determine if the preparations went overboard or resulted in the curtailment of the demonstrators' political rights.

Commenting on or analyzing events is the domain of columnists and editorial writers. The rightful place of the commentary and analysis is the Opinion section, not the news pages.

Jump page

Next on the reader's error list was the last sentence of the same news report that appeared on the front page before the story jumped to Page A6.

It read: "At the Calamba, Laguna, tollgate, Army troops and Philippine National Police officers stopped more than 2,000 workers and members of militant groups from the Southern Tagalog region from proceeding to the Labor Day protest sites in Manila."

The reader noted that except for the words "At the Calamba, Laguna, tollgate, Army troops and Philippine National Police," the same sentence was repeated on the jump page.

She asked whether "the *INQUIRER* is paying its proofreaders enough to prevent that kind of mistake from happening. The same error could have been spotted if your computers have 'grammar spellers' that automatically highlight unnecessary repetitions or grammatical errors."

My comment: I noticed that error too when I first read the news report. If the repetition had involved just a word or two, the mistake could be explained as a minor lapse. But when it relates to a long sentence, whoever is in charge of checking that particular story has some explaining to do.

Disrespectful

Third on the reader's litany was the lead of another front-page news ("Erap rally loses its Edsa III punch") which reads: "Joseph Estrada took a break from his usual tirade against the Philippine judicial system Sandiganbayan and marked Labor Day by issuing a warning on forces ostensibly out to 'divide' the nation."

The reader said: "The *INQUIRER* was disrespectful of the former president. Even if I hate him for what he did to our country, he is still entitled to respect and should have been described as 'ex-president' or 'deposed president,' but certainly not just 'Joseph Estrada.'"

The reader also pointed out that "the word 'Sandiganbayan' should not have come after the phrase 'Philippine judicial system' because the former is only a part of the latter, unless you have decided that our judicial system revolves solely around the Sandiganbayan."

My comment: The reader is correct on both counts. Since it was an initial reference to him in the report, Mr. Estrada's status as a former or deposed president should have been appended to his name. He could have been referred to in the succeeding paragraphs as Mr. Estrada or plain Estrada for brevity.

No matter what his sins to society may have been, he has earned the right, in the same way as former Presidents Cory Aquino and Fidel Ramos have, to be addressed in a manner befitting the lofty office he once held.

With regard to the errant word "Sandiganbayan," I doff my hat to the reader for spotting that error. Indeed, that word is misplaced and does not give a good account of the copyreader and the proofreader who reviewed that story prior to its release for publication.

Lumbao's case

Fourth in the reader's complaint sheet is the appearance of the story about the detention of Ronald Lumbao, the arrested leader of the People's Movement Against Poverty on Pages A3 and A15.

She pointed out that "your Page A3 news entitled 'No new cell for detained Erap leader' contained six long paragraphs that detailed Lumbao's demand to be transferred to another cell and the reasons behind the refusal of the police to accede to his request. The same six paragraphs appeared practically word for word on Page A15 as part of the continuation of your front-page story on Erap's rally losing its Edsa III punch."

"Was it really necessary for you to repeat that story about Lumbao? You could have scrapped your Page A3 story and just let your front page tell everything about him. I suspect your proofreader was again asleep or you used the Page A3 story as a space filler."

My comment: I agree with the reader that the Page A3 story could have been dispensed with in favor of the front-page report. If it was the intention to highlight Lumbao's request for better quarters, that item could have been removed from the front-page news and made to stand independently on Page A3.

Finally, the reader called my attention to the story in the Metro section which bore the headline "13 suspects arrested, PCI Bank rob foiled." She reminded me that "PCI Bank ceased to operate since 1999 when it was taken over by Equitable Bank. The correct name of the merged banks is Equitable PCI Bank. You committed a big disservice to Equitable PCI Bank."

My comment: The reader's observation is correct. PCI Bank no longer exists. The headline should have used the words "Equitable Bank" and, if that name is too long to fit into the space, some abbreviation could have been used instead.

Let me end this column by apologizing for the errors in the May 2 issue of the *INQUIRER*. Something went wrong somewhere in the preparation of that issue. Remedial measures are in order to avoid a repeat of those mistakes in the future.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascarado Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Darkness in Tablas

THIS is an urgent call to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and the National Power Corp. on behalf of more than 10,000 people of Tablas, Romblon who have been languishing in virtual darkness during the last five years due to the still unsolved power crisis on the island of nine municipalities. Brownouts continue to afflict business establishments and households almost daily without notice, resulting to incalculable financial losses to business, damage to appliances and inconvenience to people doing their routine tasks. What further embitters the people here is that they have to continue paying for their electric bills, otherwise the service will be disconnected.

Local government officials here have been promised by the Napocor time and again that the power supply would normalize with the installation of a new generator. Its operation, however, would have to wait until the concrete platform which was con-

structed to support it is ready. That platform was built and completed about two years ago, but the promise of full power restoration has yet to be realized.

Recently, until what seemed to be an eternity of waiting, the Napocor conducted a test-run of the new generator, only to be grounded again because the concrete platform sustained cracks. A new platform, therefore, would have to be constructed which would mean many years of waiting for our already frustrated people on Tablas island.

Knowing the past lackadaisical performance of the Napocor in Tablas, the prospect for electric service to normalize on this island is bleak and this means the residents would have to continue gnashing their teeth in bitterness.

—RAMON M. GUTIERREZ,
chief of staff, Office of Rep.
Perpetuo B. Ylagan, Lone
District of Romblon

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascarado Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Slimmers World gives side on column item

THIS letter is in response to the allegations expressed by Belinda Olivares-Cunanan on behalf of Liza Cacanando in her column on Slimmers World International (SWI) last April 30, 2002.

It is appalling that the views made were based on the claims of only one party.

Cunanan alleged that SWI president Ronald Joseph Moy "maltreated" and "attacked" Cacanando, using as basis documents allegedly shown to her, without any further inquiry or clarification.

Cunanan also emphasized as gospel truth the complaint of Cacanando that she lost some personal belongings while working out in our facilities. While it may be possible that a master key could have opened the locker assigned to Cacanando, it is equally possible that there was no bag containing the claimed valuables to begin with. The truth is—even the Makati City Police was not able to establish whether indeed there was a loss insofar as Cacanando was concerned. To this day, the Makati police maintain that there was an alleged theft but there was no conclusion that a theft did take place.

It is unfortunate that Cunanan did not even bother to find out that to protect its clients from incidents similar to that being claimed by Cacanando, SWI accepts full responsibility for loss of

valuables on the condition that these valuables are declared and deposited with the front desk/reception. This company policy would have answered Cunanan's query.

Any logical person would understand the reason why an establishment like SWI would insist that clients' valuables be deposited at the front desk/reception. How can a client prove he/she brought inside SWI any valuables not presented, not declared and not seen by anyone save for the same person making the claim of their alleged loss later?

It is also unfortunate that Cunanan is not aware of the fact that Cacanando usually deposited her valuables at the front desk/reception, but on the day she claimed she was a victim of theft in SWI, she did not declare or deposit them at our front desk/reception (if she brought any at all).

That Cacanando continues to feel insulted by what our lawyer wrote, saying she could have brought fake items perhaps from the Greenhills tiangge, is her prerogative. But a simple analysis of the statement presupposes a possibility, nothing more, nothing less.

It must be rationally considered that there are five basic factual issues that must be resolved to put the matter to rest:

1. Did Cacanando really lose what she claims to have lost?

Other than her own claims, is there any independent substantiation of where and when the loss happened?

2. Assuming that she indeed suffered such loss, where did she lose her personal belongings? Other than her self-serving claim, is there any independent substantiation of where and when the loss happened?

3. What precisely did she lose? Other than her own assertions, is there any independent substantiation of the make and authenticity of the items claimed to have been lost?

4. Since most of what she claims are branded, is there any independent proof that they were genuine and not merely imitations?

5. If indeed, she suffered a loss, why is she airing her grievances in the media and not in the courts of law?

There is no cogent reason for Cunanan to suggest that Moy be kicked out of the country. Definitely not at this time when the country is inviting foreign investors. Besides, what transgression did Moy commit? Is it a crime for the president of a corporation to sign as such? We understand that as the wife of a retired military officer, Cunanan will help out the wife of another retired military officer. However, we expected a journalist like her to be more impartial and objective.



On the issue of SWI increasing its membership without upgrading its services and facilities, making the premises look like a big marketplace, conducive to stealing plus the allegations that many customers have lost valuables in its premises are serious complaints that deserve greater study. Indeed, prior to jumping into the conclusion that a boycott of SWI is in order because of the arrogance and highhandedness of the manager, it would have been more prudent for Cunanan to have asked SWI to give its side.

Much as we try to satisfy our clients, the reality is that no one can please everyone. Ironically, SWI gratefully enjoys the support of the majority of its clients.

Finally, we agree with the observation of Cunanan that Cacanando should seek redress in the courts of law, instead of continuing to malign SWI in the print and broadcast media.

—HELEN GRACE
MANANSALA-CAMACHO,
executive assistant to the
president, OIC-Philippines,
Slimmers World International,
1032 Arnaiz Ave. corner
Hernandez Street, Makati City

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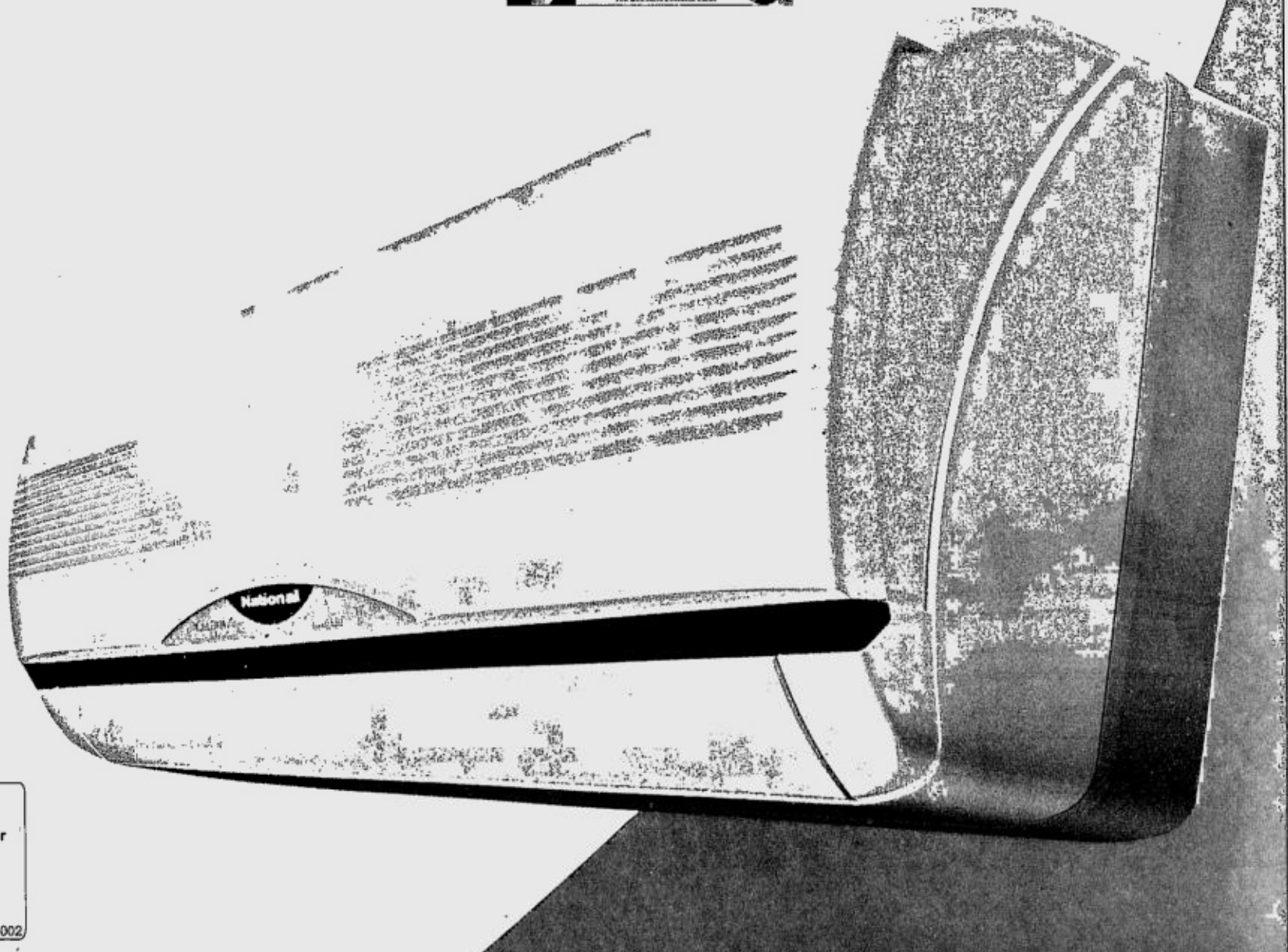
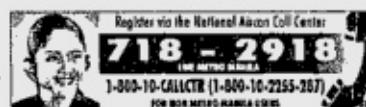
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Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Mailbox bombs sow fear in central US

WASHINGTON—A wave of pipe bombs placed in mailboxes sparked fear late Saturday across the central United States as a massive police investigation sought to stem what authorities called a case of domestic terrorism.

At least five people have been injured by the bombs, which were accompanied by an antigovernment message warning of more attacks, authorities said.

Mail delivery was suspended or curtailed in parts of Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska, and residents were warned to be extremely careful and to report any suspicious activity.

"Whoever is out there who has done this, we have heard from you and we ask that you reach us without any more effort like this," Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns said at a news conference in Omaha, Nebraska, 765

km west of Chicago.

Earlier, the Nebraska State Patrol said five bombs were found in rural areas in the eastern part of the state. None exploded and there were no injuries, state patrol spokesperson Terri Teuber said.

Six bombs exploded Friday in rural mailboxes in Iowa and Illinois, injuring four letter carriers and one postal customer, US postal inspectors said.

The Des Moines Register daily in Des Moines, Iowa, put the number of injuries at seven, including four carriers and three postal customers.

Two other bombs that did not

explode were found in Iowa mailboxes, inspectors said.

Postal authorities suspended mail delivery in affected areas of all three states and a small part of Wisconsin.

Authorities have no leads or suspects, but believe the attacks are linked and expect the bomber will strike again.

"We are obviously concerned about the safety of our citizens," Johanns said.

The bombs, explosive-filled metal pipes rigged to blow up when moved, all were left in mailboxes in rural areas of the three states, FBI agent Weysan Dunn said.

"None of these devices has been sent through the mail... it is our belief that they were physically placed in the mailboxes," he said. **AFP**



HUE FESTIVAL

Women in traditional dress perform with traditional musical instruments during the opening ceremony of the Hue festival held May 4 in the central city of Hue, Vietnam's former imperial city. Hundreds of artists from eight countries, including France, China and S. Korea take part in the 12-day festival. **AFP**

FBI knew of suspicious pilot training before 9/11

WASHINGTON—Two months before deadly Sept. 11 suicide attacks with hijacked airliners, an FBI office in the US state of Arizona sought and apparently failed to organize a nationwide probe of suspicious foreign students attending US flight schools, US officials said Saturday.

Some of the 19 Islamist militants blamed for the attack with four hijacked airliners studied flying in the United States. About 3,000 people died in the attack.

The acknowledgement drew an angry reaction from a ranking US senator, who said he would demand an explanation from Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert Mueller when he testifies Wednesday on Capitol Hill.

According to an FBI official, who spoke on condition of ano-

nymity, the bureau's office in the city of Phoenix sent a memorandum in July to agency headquarters in Washington, informing superiors that a suspicious number of "people of interest to them" were enrolled in various aspects of civil aviation, engineering, airport operations and pilot training.

The document contained specific names of some of the suspects—all of Middle Eastern origin, the officials said without disclosing any of the names.

But it also urged FBI management to organize nationwide monitoring of some of the foreign student pilots with the help of regional FBI offices, US intelligence agencies, the State Department as well as flight academies and other civil aviation institutions. **AFP**

180 dead after jet slams into Nigerian city

KANO, Nigeria—The death toll from the crash of a Nigerian airliner into a densely populated city suburb mounted to more than 180 Sunday, rescuers said, as they combed through the blackened rubble of ruined homes.

The twin-engined passenger jet crashed into an residential area of the northern city of Kano on Saturday afternoon shortly after taking off on a domestic flight towards Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos.

Hospital officials said that more than 100 people had died on board the plane, which exploded as it ploughed through the flimsy brick and iron sheeting of the Gammaja suburb.

At the scene, a group of vigilantes who took charge of the rescue effort, said that after a powercut forced them to give up a night-time search for victims on the ground they had already

found 83 bodies.

Ado Mohammed, one of the gang, said that the search would resume at first light and that many more bodies could yet be found.

Nigeria's sports minister, who had been traveling to see Nigeria's last warm-up match before the football World Cup finals, was among the dead, Kano health commissioner Mansur Kadir said.

One survivor of the crash, identified only as an army brigadier general, was in a critical condition, hospital officials said.

There was no official comment on the cause of the crash. The flight had begun in the central city of Jos and had made a stopover in Kano before taking off for Lagos, officials said.

"The people inside were screaming, but they were trapped and the fire brigade had no water," said local resident Bashir

Mohammed, adding that the plane crashed at around 1:45 p.m. (8:45 in Manila).

"I was standing in front of my house when I saw the plane ascending and swaying from side to side," said Maikudi Isma'il, who lives in Gwammaja and tried to rescue passengers.

"As I moved to get a better view, it went into a nose dive. First its wings burst into flames then it crashed into houses," he said.

Witnesses said that many people were at home on Saturday afternoon, the Islamic day of rest in this largely Muslim city.

"We commiserate with the relatives and the victims, of course, but we cannot comment any further. It is matter for the aviation authorities," a spokesperson for Kano's state government said.

Officials said that the plane was

operated by the private Nigerian airline EAS, which runs a regular service between Lagos, Kano and several other Nigerian cities.

EAS operates a fleet of four British Aerospace 1-11-500 twin-engined passenger jets, capable of carrying up to 96 passengers plus crew.

The Nigerian airline industry was deregulated in the 1980s and more than half a dozen private carriers now criss-cross the skies of the large west African republic.

Many passengers have criticized what they see as lax safety standards in the industry, and some foreign embassies and companies forbid their staff from flying with Nigerian firms.

"We have serious safety concerns about many of the Nigerian airlines, and our staff are not allowed to travel on them," a European diplomat said on condition of anonymity. **AFP**

HK cops nab ex-priest in sex mess

HONG KONG—Hong Kong police have arrested a former priest for the alleged indecent assault of a 15-year-old boy 11 years ago, as the child sex abuse scandal battering the Catholic Church continues to deepen.

"Police arrested a 42-year-old man—a former priest—last night in connection with an indecent assault in 1991. The man was released on bail this morning and will report back to police on Monday," a police spokesperson said Sunday.

The man, who was a trainee priest at the

time but now works as an insurance agent, allegedly assaulted the 15-year-old identified only as Ah Lim, at a boys' school.

Ah Lim had filed a complaint with police, but officers had stopped the investigation after finding there was not enough evidence to proceed with the case.

The arrest came after leading Catholic cleric, Father Lawrence Lee Len revealed Saturday that the church had received two more complaints of child sex abuse following earlier revelations last week that three priests had abused children in their care. **AFP**

Imminent end to siege of Nativity Church seen

BETHLEHEM, West Bank—Hopes of an imminent end to a month-long Israeli army siege of Bethlehem's Nativity Church were raised on Sunday, as EU and US diplomats looked to finalize a deal to transfer four wanted Pales-

tinian militants to international custody.

In a move shadowing the ground-breaking accord which last week ended the siege at Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Ramallah head-

quarters, a British negotiator late on Saturday received a list of the 200 or so Palestinians inside the besieged church from a priest.

The diplomat was then expected to hand it to the Israeli army, a senior EU official said, after which four of the men most wanted by the Jewish state—and who are thought to be inside—would be transferred to international guard within the coming days.

The European official quoted a senior Palestinian as saying the crisis at Jesus Christ's birthplace could be resolved by Sunday, the Orthodox Easter.

Less than an hour before the handover, Bethlehem's Mayor Hanna Nasser said he expected a deal to end the siege within 24 hours.

"There is no reason not to suppose that an agreement won't be reached tonight or no later than Sunday morning," Nasser said late on Saturday.

Nasser said his confidence stemmed from "international pressure and particularly American pressure on Israel."

The handover of the list was confirmed by Palestinian Bethlehem negotiator Salah Taamari.

"At the instruction of President Arafat to the people inside the church, a list was put together containing the names of those in the church," he told reporters. **AFP**



PALESTINIANS walk past a damaged building in the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin May 4. **REUTERS**

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Hopes soar for release of Burma leader Suu Kyi

RANGOON—Hopes for the release of Burma democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest soared Sunday as her party prepared for her to emerge from the villa where she has been held since October 2000.

Informed sources said the Nobel peace laureate was expected to be informed Sunday or early Monday that the restrictions had been lifted, leaving her free to travel to the headquarters of her National League for Democracy (NLD).

A contingent of diplomats and the media maintained their five-day vigil on the road leading to her University Drive residence, in anticipation of an imminent development.

The NLD headquarters in downtown Rangoon, normally closed for the weekend, opened

its doors Sunday to allow party workers to spruce up a room that will be used as her personal office.

"We are installing air conditioning—it is for her, we are expecting her release very soon," one NLD member there said as workmen busied themselves with the task.

NLD vice chair Tin Oo said Thursday after a meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi that she was expected to be freed "very soon" after last-minute negotiations on conditions for her release are resolved.

Diplomats say the agreement is likely to cover her future freedom of movement, the release of hundreds of political prisoners still languishing in jail, and the future operations of the NLD.

The party has said Suu Kyi is concerned at the prospect of returning to conditions she endured after 1995 when she was freed

from six years under house arrest but forbidden to leave the capital Rangoon.

Her attempt to travel to the northern city of Mandalay in September 2000, accompanied by top NLD members, prompted the junta to slap down the new restrictions.

"We don't want to make a repeat of '95," Tin Oo said, while adding that he believed the prospect of reaching a satisfactory agreement was "feasible." **AFP**

A CURIOUS Burmese boy on May 4 checks out a foreign photographer at a gate to the Shwedagon temple, whose massive stupa dominates Rangoon's skyline.

AFP



France poised to dump Le Pen, retain Chirac

PARIS—French voters are poised to reelect Jacques Chirac and deny far-right leader Jean-Marie Le Pen victory in Sunday's presidential vote, but they will still leave the political future of France hanging in the balance.

With Chirac seen coasting to a landslide win in an election, which has become a referendum on the extreme right, everyone is looking ahead to parliamentary elections for the real contest.

Those elections, held over two rounds on June 9 and 16, will determine the color of the next government and whether Chirac again has to share power with the left after five years of paralyzing "cohabitation" with the Socialist-led government.

Le Pen, a 73-year-old former political street brawler who once called the Holocaust a "detail" of history, stunned Europe on April 21 when he edged Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin into third place in the first round with 17 percent of the vote.

Le Pen's shock triumph galvanized opposition to him, driving voters of all political stripes into the streets to denounce his candidacy. France's top newspapers took the unusual step of endorsing the sleaze-tarnished 69-year-old Chirac to block the xenophobic far-right leader.

Even if Chirac prevails on Sunday, Le Pen's first-round success is likely to reverberate for some time and may set the stage for a complete overhaul of the French political system.

Capitalizing on fears over crime, immigration, and a loss of French identity in an integrated Europe and globalized world, Le Pen tapped resentment among voters fed up with what they see as an unresponsive governing elite.

Experts feel the chord he struck among voters could resonate in either a left- or right-wing government, preventing the economic reforms many view as crucial to France's future and yielding a more pugnacious, nationalist foreign policy.

Voting runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in most of the country, but to 8 p.m. in large cities such as Paris, Lyon and Marseille.

Commentators say Sunday's vote could influence Chirac's choice of an interim prime minister to serve between May and June—a sign of what could come if his conservatives were to win a majority in the 577-seat National Assembly. **Reuters**

Second space tourist lands safely on earth

NEAR ARKALYK, Kazakhstan—A Russian Soyuz craft carrying the world's second space tourist, an Internet businessman believed to have paid \$20 million for the trip, landed safely back on earth on Sunday.

The capsule carrying South African Mark Shuttleworth, 28, and two other crew came down some 30 km from the town of Arkalyk in the vast Kazakh steppe, after Shuttleworth spent eight days aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Russian ground staff were communicating with the three men through a port-hole in the capsule and preparing to take them out of the craft. Space officials told journalists at the scene all three men appeared well and the return trip from the Space Station had gone smoothly.

The three men blasted off from Baikonur, 750 km away from Arkalyk, on April 25 in their Soyuz space taxi and docked with the ISS two days later.

Baikonur is still Russia's main launch pad for space missions despite now being located inside Kazakhstan, an independent state since the breakup of the Soviet Union. **Reuters**



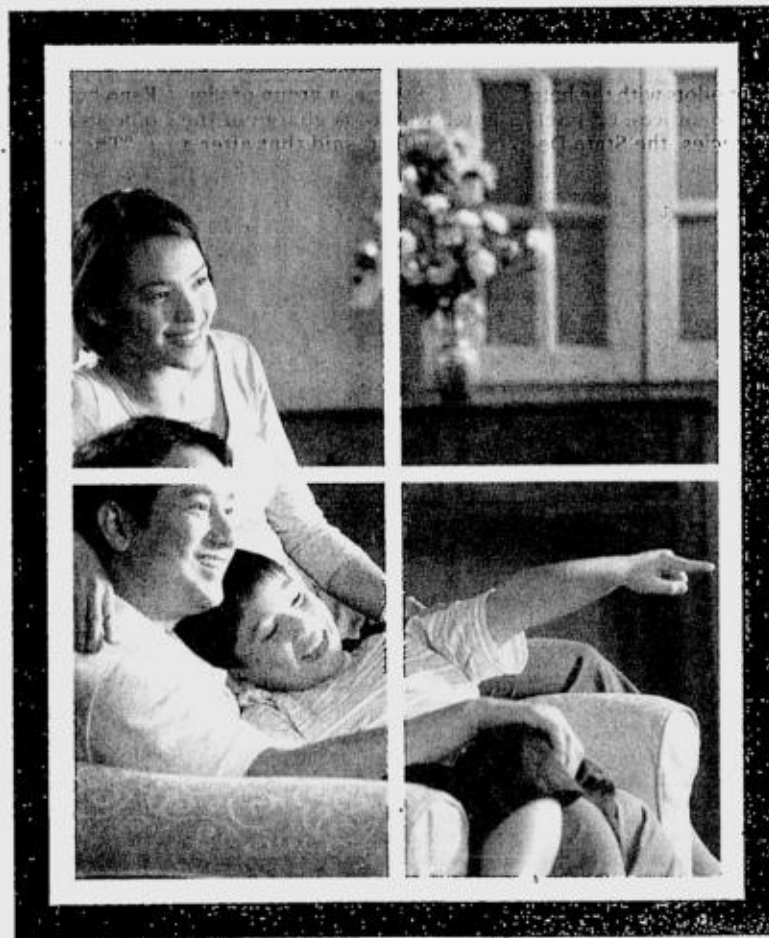
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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Negros mayors say there's no hunger

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Occidental mayors on Friday denied claims of protesting farmers that hunger is widespread in the province's countryside.

Gov. Joseph Marañon said the mayors made the denial after he called them to validate the claims of the farmers who, on Labor Day, ransacked the warehouse of the National Food Authority and stole 10 sacks of rice.

The farmers had claimed their companions were fainting from hunger.

The NFA was preparing to file robbery charges against the 11 leaders of the farmers.

Marañon said the mayors' denial of widespread hunger was enough to conclude that there were no grounds to declare Negros Occidental under a state of calamity, which was demanded by the militant farmers.

"It is the word of the mayors against the protesting farmers, and I am inclined to believe the mayors," the governor said.

A day before they stormed the NFA warehouse, the farmers, numbering about 7,000, had camped out at the capitol grounds demanding rice from the provincial government.

To appease the farmers, the governor released 25 sacks of rice to them.

Food-for-jobs

In the wake of the raid on the NFA warehouse, Marañon said that if future rice assistance were to be given to the farmers who are complaining of economic difficulties, it would have to be in the form of a food-for-work program.

"Those given rice will have to work for it, and it will not be in the form of dole-outs," the governor said.

Marañon said he also learned that the claim of the protesting farmers that their crops have been hit by the El Niño was not true, since the weather phenomenon has not even affected the province yet.

Some farms in the country are experiencing drought, although the weather bureau has not officially declared that the El Niño is here.

He said he was informed by agriculture officials that Negros Occidental was expected to feel the effect of the El Niño toward the fourth quarter.

Programs

The governor also said the provincial government already has programs in the pipeline to address the lack of employment for farmers during the off-milling season.

These programs, the governor said, removed the need to create Task Force Gutom, which was supposed to address hunger in the rural areas.

Among the mayors who met with Marañon on Friday were Esteban Coscolluela of Murcia, Enrico Elumba of La Castellana, Emmanuel Aranda of Binalbagan, Jilson Tubillara of San Enrique, Renato Malabar of Isabela, and Carminia Bascon of Himamaylan.

Coscolluela denied that there was massive hunger in his municipality.

He said he was told by some workers from his town that they went to Bacolod for a dialogue with the governor and he gave them 10 sacks of rice for their needs. **Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau**

EXILE IN PALAWAN

Pinatubo victims decry neglect

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Almost 50,000 families displaced by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 preferred to start anew in their home provinces of Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales.

A small group, however, opted to rebuild their lives in faraway Palawan.

Exploring neglect by the defunct Mount Pinatubo Commission, 11 families on Wednesday asked Pampanga Gov. Manuel Lapid for housing and livelihood assistance in their resettlement at Punta Baja in Rizal, Palawan.

Servillano Mercado, their leader, managed to reach Pampanga by getting a free ride on a C-130 cargo plane, one of the Philippine Air Force's aircraft that

brought the party of President Macapagal-Arroyo to Palawan on Saturday.

"We didn't manage to get close to our *cabalen* (province mate, the President) and tell her our plight so we really begged the Air Force to give me a one-way free ride," Mercado told the *INQUIRER*.

A one-way boat ride to Manila would have cost him P1,270.

"Pinatubo victims there raised only P50. That's how hard life is for us there," he added.

Just the same, he said 11 fami-

lies or 70 people wanted to remain in Punta Baja because their neighbors there were friendly and the provincial government has been helping them.

Mercado said the Department of Social Welfare and Development moved them to Palawan in 1993. They used to live in Barangay Amsic in Angeles City and were evacuated to the Clark Air Base Command (Cabcom) center in Mabalacat, Pampanga, after lahar buried the village in 1991.

With the center stalked by diseases and risks of toxic waste contamination, Mercado's group agreed to leave Cabcom.

The problem was that their adopted province could not build concrete houses for them. The law gave this task to the MPC, which has been reduced to a project management office under the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

"Other victims received houses. There were funds for that. But why, after all these years, have we been forgotten by the MPC?" Mercado asked.

In the last eight years, they have lived on a 3-hectare lot in Punta Baja, about 5 km from the town proper.

"There, we actually don't have permanent jobs. Our neighbors

allowed us to join them in fishing and farming. They gave us some shares for our labor. We just live on that," Mercado said.

Lapid said he was surprised to know that families from Pampanga were taken by the DSWD to as far as Palawan. At least 60 others were taken to Malaybalay City in Bukidnon, it was learned.

The HUDCC is raising P655.5 million to build houses for 4,653 more families left homeless by the eruption and lahar flows. The MPC has resettled 44,599 families in 24 sites on a P6-billion government fund, reports said. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**



ARM wrestling is one area in which Filipino soldiers could match the strength of their American counterparts taking part in Balikatan exercises. **TOOTS SOBERANO**

Suspensions raised over Clark US Marines post

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The United States Marine Corps has built a permanent observation post in its former gunnery range at Crow Valley in Capas, Tarlac, fanning suspicions that the American military was starting to reestablish a base near its former facility.

But Maj. Allan Ballesteros, public information chief of the Philippine Air Force's 600th Air Base Wing, last week dispelled the suspicions, coming mostly from Aetas and upland farmers living on the 17,000-hectare military reservation.

He, however, confirmed that a team of US Marines participating in the RP-US Balikatan 02-2 in Luzon erected the "squadron building" at Durungawan, a hill on the range, several weeks before the exercise began on April 22.

Ballesteros said the US Marines also spent for the construction, the amount of which, he said, he did not know.

Durungawan used to be the site of a similar observation post of the US 13th Air Force stationed in Clark. Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 and succeeding lahar flows damaged that facility, as well as the entire gunnery complex.

The gunnery range is 10 kilometers northwest of the volcano. "Cope Thunder" exercises, a large-scale military training involving thousands of airmen from Singapore, Thailand and the US, were held there during the 1980s.

"It's for the Philippine Air Force," Ballesteros said of the unit that would use the new facility.

At the crest of the hill, the US Marines put up a concrete building and a steel watch tower. These, according to Ballesteros, are for "range management."

The PAF's 600th Squadron Wing supervises the range, some areas of which extend to eastern

Zambales and northern Pampanga.

Some 20 Aeta families lived at Durungawan before the construction began and were ordered to move out like what 40 other families did in Tarukan, also an exercise site.

The Aetas consider the range an ancestral abode and have returned to Pinatubo's hinterlands after the volcano's eruption. The range was declared a military reservation in 1902, the same year that the US Cavalry started using Clark as a grazing area for horses.

The reservation was turned over to the Philippine Air Force when the US Air Force pulled out following the Philippine Senate's rejection of the extension of the 1947 RP-US military bases agreement in 1991.

PAF officials said they broached the idea of constructing an observation post in last year's civil-military operations of the

Balikatan.

Emphasizing that it was not a US facility, Ballesteros said the US Marine Corps is turning over the management of the structure to the PAF on Wednesday.

The Marines, he added, have not installed sophisticated communications equipment there. "We have requested this. This is ours as the range is ours to manage," Ballesteros told the *INQUIRER*.

In a related development, the PAF ordered the gunnery range off-limits to Pinatubo trekkers.

"(It's) not open for viewing to tourists," Ballesteros added, indicating that the PAF and the US Marines have disapproved the plan by the regional Department of Tourism to make the exercises a new attraction for treks to the volcano.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Group claiming to be with NPA puts 5 cops in hit list

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur—A group claiming to be a unit of the New People's Army here marked at least five policemen for execution for their alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade.

However, the group, calling itself the NPA's Renso Sumunod Command, said Supt. Jessie

Castro, former chief of police here, SPO1 Leonilo Lagumbay, SPO1 Dionisio Tablizo, PO2 Enrico Lala and SPO1 Romeo Agbay, could still be spared from punishment if they refrain from providing protection to drug traffickers.

Aside from the police officers, the rebels included in its hit list,

which was circulated here, some 40 other alleged users and pushers.

The *INQUIRER* tried but failed to reach Bagani Dagohoy Bonifacio, spokesperson of the NPA's Fr. Frank Navarro Command that operates in Northern Mindanao to confirm the identity of the group.

This after Senior Supt. Ramon

Espiritu, Agusan del Sur police director, said the Renso Sumunod Command was not among the NPA units in their intelligence data.

But he admitted that some of those included in the hit list were in the police's list of drug personalities. **Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Extra effort needed to address 'alarming' poverty in E. Visayas

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Extra efforts would be needed to implement the government's anti-poor program in Eastern Visayas where an "alarming" number of families is living in poverty.

Poverty incidence or the proportion of poor families in the region has "worsened" from 40.8 percent in 1997 to 43.6 percent in 2000, or an increase of 2.8 per-

centage points, the National Statistics Coordinating Board regional office said in a report it released recently.

The NSCB disclosed that the number of poor families in Eastern Visayas has reached 320,975 in 2000, or a rise of 4.6 percent or 14,187 families from that of 1997.

Although the number of poor families in the rural areas increased from 1997 to 2000, a decline in the poverty incidence in

the urban areas was noted during the same period.

"Most or 82.5 percent of the (poor) families were in the rural areas, which registered an increase in poverty incidence of 50 percent from 44.9 percent in 1997," NSCB information officer Neil Moraleta told the *INQUIRER*.

The remaining 7.5 percent or 56,079 poor families were in the urban areas. But it was there where the NSCB recorded a declining poverty incidence of 27.1

percent from 29.8 percent in 1997.

As a proportion to population, Moraleta said "poverty incidence in the region was estimated at an alarming 51.1 percent or over half of the region's total population in 2000. It moved 2.6 percentage points higher, from the 48.5 percent in 1997."

According to him, a family is considered poor when its annual per capita income falls below the poverty threshold or the

amount required to satisfy food and non-basic needs. In Eastern Visayas, this was placed at P10,783 in 2000, which was higher by 23.6 percent than the P8,727 in 1997.

"This means that a family of six members in the region should have an income of at least P5,391 a month to meet its food and non-basic needs," he explained.

The region's annual per capita food and subsistence threshold in 2000 was placed at P7,915,

and a family of six needed an income of at least P3,957 a month to satisfy its food or subsistence needs alone.

"This translates to something like P128 a day family income or a daily per capita food/subsistence requirement of around P21," he said.

Also in 2000, the NSCB said the food/subsistence incidence or the proportion of families with per capita income below the food threshold was at 24.8 percent.

Hired guns kill kidnap victim in Zambo market

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Hired assassins with links to the Abu Sayyaf on Thursday morning shot and killed one of the city's prominent businessmen, police said.

Police said Emilio Enriquez, 65, was opening the family-owned New Francis Trading at the Old Public Market here near the City Hall, when he was gunned down.

Insp. Hado Edding, chief of the city police's investigation department, said that a day before Enriquez, a former Abu Sayyaf captive, was killed, his bodyguard identified only as Romeo mysteriously disappeared.

Later, it was known that Romeo was picked up by unidentified men and was taken to the Sta. Cruz cemetery, also in the city.

The bodyguard was allegedly tortured to death, but as of late Thursday, efforts to locate his body have failed.

Authorities raided two small shanties, believed to be the safe houses of the killers, at the San Roque Catholic Cemetery but found them empty.

Pictures

However, the raiders recovered scattered pictures, including a photo of Enriquez's house in Barangay Guiwan.

Edding said these could be surveillance photos taken by the killers, days before gunning down the businessman.

"According to our informant, this group was responsible for the series of killings in Zamboanga City," Edding said.

Crime groups appear to be having their way in some parts of Mindanao.

In Bislig City, three unidentified men snatched a couple who was about to leave a restaurant in Barangay Mangagoy on Tuesday night. But the abductors later abandoned their victims while police were pursuing them.

The victims were identified as engineer Jesus Fiel and his wife Teodora. The abductors alleged took with them P15,000.

Police said the couple had just come out of a restaurant when the abductors forced them into their car. As they were being pursued by the police, the gunmen first freed Jesus, then

drove along the Bislig-Hinatuan National Highway.

While at the Bigaan Bridge, which was undergoing repair, the abductors left Teodora as they fled in different directions.

Teodora said one of the suspects was wounded when policemen fired at them as they passed through a checkpoint.

Threatened witnesses

In Tarragona, Davao Oriental, witnesses against the 29 Moro detainees charged in connection with the murder of at least 10 government soldiers in the town in July 2000 said they were now reluctant to stand in court after suspected members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front threatened to harm them.

Earlier, militiaman Arismolo Macusang, 64, one of the 14 witnesses against the Moro detainees, and his 14-year-old son Arismolo Jr., were gunned down by suspected MILF rebels in Sitio Talisay, Barangay Lucatan here. The victims' family said that before the elder Macusang was killed, the rebels repeatedly harassed him against testifying.

Macusang's death, according to the witnesses, was proof that the MILF was serious in its threat.

Judge Diosdado Yamas of the Regional Trial Court Branch 5, told the INQUIRER that the witnesses either "refused or were reluctant" to take the witness stand against the 29 Moro detainees.

He said that during the hearing on April 24, none of the witnesses took the stand, prompting him to order them to explain.

He rescheduled the hearing for next month.

The Moro detainees were arrested at the height of former President Joseph Estrada's all-out war against the MILF in 2000.

Supt. Catalino Cuy, provincial police director, said they were willing to provide security to the witnesses.

"Yes, we will provide them security if they will ask for it, just so they can continue to testify against the MILF suspects," Cuy said. **Ferdinand Zuasola, Joe Climaco, Rolly San Juan and Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

Women's groups seek ouster of vice mayor

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Various women's groups held a prayer-rally at the City Hall here on Friday to seek the ouster of Vice Mayor John Elizaga for alleged loss of public trust.

Elizaga is facing charges before the Ombudsman in Mindanao for allegedly sexually harassing a former employee in March last year.

Leah Daba, a daughter of Councilor Annie Daba, filed the charges against Elizaga on April 12.

Lawyer Beverly Selim-Musni, chair of the Coalition of Women Against Sexual Harassments, told the INQUIRER that the vice mayor has betrayed the public's trust when he allegedly took advantage of his position to harass women.

"We lost confidence in him primarily because (of) his conduct of harassing women, thus we want him to resign than wait for the courts since it will take time and the possibility of him harassing more women is great," Musni said.

In her speech, Daba said she braved the consequences of her coming out against Elizaga, her mother's partymate in the Padayon Pilipino, to help end incidents of sexual harassments here.

She appealed to other victims of sexual harassment to come out because it would "free them from the nightmares of having been victimized."

"When you are going to come out then you will lose all the nightmares that you are keeping with you and above all we could stop this evil proliferating in public and private offices committed by men in power," Daba said.

Musni said it would not be difficult to oust Elizaga if the people are united.

She cited the events that led to the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada from the presidency.

As this developed, Dale Bryan Mordeno, Daba's legal counsel, told the INQUIRER that the Ombudsman has already raffled the charges against Daba.

"As soon as Elizaga receives the summons, he will be given 15 days to submit his counter-affidavit. I am confident that this case will not drag on," Mordeno said. **Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

WEATHER FORECAST

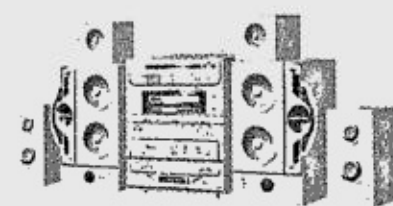
FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while the rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 27°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 27°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
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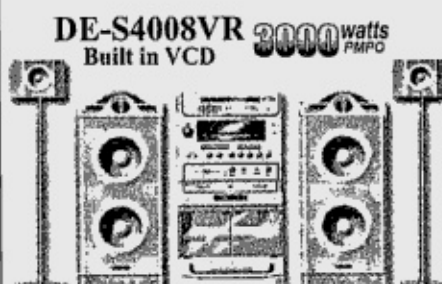
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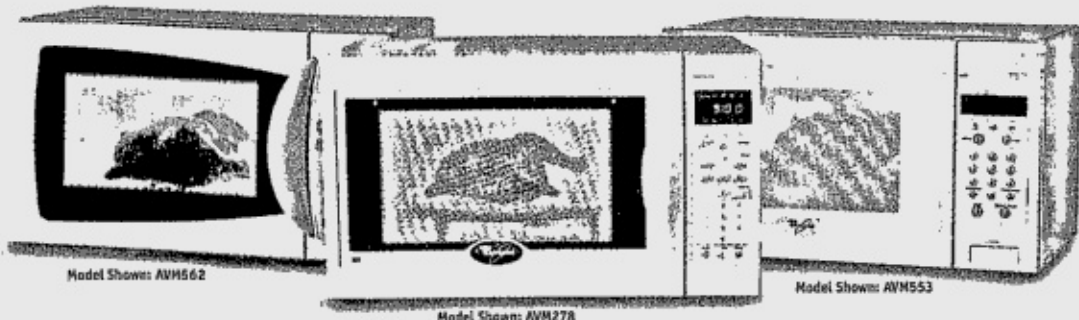
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Thames International Business School Bringing the entrepreneurial mindset to the next generation

Thames celebrates the Filipino entrepreneurial spirit with its new, cutting-edge college degree offering.

IT has long been known that the Philippines is a country where a strong entrepreneurial spirit pervades. In the countryside, we find furniture exporters, fruit packagers, and textile makers. And in every street corner, every school and church we find small shops and roving merchants, selling everything from a cold drink to a full course meal. All of these are testament to the spirit of entrepreneurship that lives within the Filipino culture.

However, few Filipinos have risen above the crowd by succeeding in situations where foreign giants usually reign. Here we find franchising legend Tony Tan Caktiong of Jollibee. Tony parlayed a small restaurant business into an international fastfood network with the reputation of being the only local chain to lord over McDonald's. Consumer goods manufacturers like Cecilio Pedro of Hapee Toothpaste show Filipinos how a local brand can compete with the world's No.1 toothpaste. These two Filipino entrepreneurs are usually featured in the business cases of foreign MBA programs due to their astounding achievements.

The beauty of Jollibee and Hapee do not lie in their success, but in what fueled it. These companies are homage to the entrepreneurial spirit. And that entrepreneurial spirit is something that the country sorely needs right now; the main reason why Thames International Business School is starting an entrepreneurship course.

Timely? Perhaps. Necessary? Indeed.

"What we need today are not more job-seekers, but more job-makers," says Vivienne Tan, Thames President and CEO. Thames is addressing this need. The school is launching a bachelor's degree course in entrepreneurship amidst skyrocketing unemployment. Schools continue to churn out thousands of prospective employees at a time when most established companies are cutting back on investments and consequently, job creation.

"The entrepreneurial spirit has always been the driving force for innovation and growth in any economy," says Tan. Current researches support these assumptions.

Surveys show that to succeed in the current business landscape, individuals must have the skills to manage themselves in a business-like fashion, including time-management, goal-setting, communications, and project management skills. The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM), a seminal study led by Babson College, one of the best business schools in the US, reveals that entrepreneurship is a major contributing factor to a country's economic well being, both in terms of economic growth and job creation, and accounts for roughly one-third of the difference in growth rates among countries analyzed.

Teaching the art and science of being entrepreneurial
"There is a misconception that being



an entrepreneur is all about establishing and running your own business. There's a lot more to it than that," says Joel Santos, Director of Thames. "Being entrepreneurial is really about having the skills, knowledge, confidence, and courage to act on your ideas. Those skills are what we want to impart to our next generation of leaders. That is why the skills that will be imparted by Thames' entrepreneurial program are fit to be applied in organizations ranging from start up ventures to family-owned enterprises to 3,000-employee corporations."

The Thames B.S. Entrepreneurship course is a CHED (Commission on Higher Education) accredited four-year degree program divided into 12 trimesters. Each trimester consists of 11 weeks

of training in the form of lectures, seminars, and workshops. These activities are structured towards actively learning conceptual frameworks in business as well as solving simulated and real-life problems. What's more, the entrepreneurship course is done entirely in the Philippines, which differentiates it from Thames' other course offerings.

"We want our future leaders to im-

bibe the entrepreneurial spirit, Santos stresses. "And as I said, it's not just about starting your own business. It's about the courage to take calculated risks and make quick but intelligent decisions. And that is something we aim to teach our students. This is the kind of education students get in Thames."

"The entrepreneurial spirit has always been the driving force of innovation and growth in any economy."

Vivienne Tan
CEO, Thames

Thames Moves to Eastwood

The premier international college hauls class to a bigger, better locale.

For Greenhills habitués, the Thames International Business School logo along Ortigas Avenue is a landmark of sorts. However, the sign that has become all so familiar to so many, with its lion and books as icons, will soon be moving to another location.

This June, Thames International Business School will be moving to a bigger, and better campus inside the sprawling compound of Eastwood City Cyberpark in Libis. In fact, Thames becomes the first and only academic institution to run classes in Eastwood come June.

"We have been planning to move our facilities for quite a time now," says Joel Santos, Director of Thames. "We aim to keep on improving ourselves in order to provide a better learning environment for our students. Our center in Ortigas met our initial needs but a bigger campus in a very dynamic environment would ensure that our



Thames new building in Eastwood City, Libis

students maximize their learning."

The new campus facility will provide Thames students a fresh new learning atmosphere, and first class facilities both inside and outside the classrooms. The 500-seat ICITE auditorium will also provide the Thames community a venue for its workshops, seminars, and plays.

"It has always been the mandate of Thames to provide a setting most suitable for learning to its students," says Vivienne Tan, Thames CEO. "More than just a pleasing change of scenery, our presence here will allow us to interact with professionals, entrepreneurs, and real life situations."

Eastwood City boasts of 15 hectares of office towers, residential enclaves, and recreational all situated in park-like greenways and landscapes. The Eastwood cyberpark is also only a stone's throw away from the offices of some of the biggest companies in the world: IBM and Citibank are in the vicinity. Thames students will therefore be in an environment where professionals meet and interact.

Thames Delivers the Dream

Leading international college delivers on its vision of making world-class foreign degrees available to more Filipinos

Before 1999, getting a foreign degree was an unreachable dream for most Filipinos. The high tuition costs and the prospect of four long years of being away from home discouraged most Filipino families from sending their kids abroad. This was to change drastically with the establishment of Thames Business School in the Philippines.

Thames offers an innovative approach to earning an international degree. The school allows its students to graduate with a British, American, or Australian degree through two tracks. After two years at Thames, students can choose track one, and continue their British degree in the Philippines, or they can choose track two, and do their final two years abroad.

Last year, the pioneer students of Thames chose track two and flew to the UK to finish their bachelor's degrees. They believed that the experience of living and studying in another country would enhance their total character development. Teddy Cheng, who will graduate from Thames Valley University in London this year says, "Studying and living in the UK has been a very good learning experience. Living independently has taught me to budget, shop, cook, wash, iron, organize, negotiate, and meet deadlines on my own. It taught me a significant deal of resourcefulness and time management. In the future, one option I am considering is to set up my own business."

This year, the next batch of Thames students is set to leave for Australia and the UK. This contingent includes student leaders such as Kerri Gail Ong and Theresa Leung, who



plan to become technology managers. Marina Suria, who is already an entrepreneur, wants to venture into e-commerce. The second group also includes a likely marketing practitioner in Mark Seng, and a future journalist in Justine Juanesa.

Together with the first contingent that is already abroad, the second batch proves once more that the dream of a foreign degree is now a reality to more Filipinos. "We're just beginning," says Tan. "We've got a lot of plans and we still have a lot of work to do. But we believe that our students are developing the skills and characteristics necessary to become the next generation of leaders for our country. And that vision is what drives us at Thames."



"Studying and living in the UK has been a very good learning experience.

Living independently has taught me to budget, shop, cook, wash, iron, organize, negotiate, and meet deadlines on my own.

It taught me a significant deal of resourcefulness and time management."

Teddy Cheng
Thames Alumni



Gov't to enforce Marcos law against begging

By Jovelyn Reyes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Social Welfare and Development has asked the help of church and tribal leaders to solve the problem of mendicancy in the Cordillera.

DSWD officials said they would also put up billboard signs in the city and in Mt. Province asking the public not to give alms to street beggars.

Perlita Panganiban, chief of the regional DSWD operations division, said they have turned to the church and tribal elders after the "Sagip Kalinga" program, initiated by President Macapagal-Arroyo during her term as social welfare secretary, failed to achieve its goal of getting beggars off the streets.

"But we are counting largely on the help of the church and tribal leaders. They are highly respected people. I hope these beggars will listen to them," Panganiban said.

The Church, she said, is the only institution that could persuade the public not to give alms, "because the giving of alms is based on (the) Christian teaching of helping others."

Aside from putting up billboard signs, the DSWD will strictly implement Presidential Decree No. 1563 or the anti-mendicancy law of 1978, which was signed by then President Ferdinand Marcos.

Decree

The decree, which punishes both the beggar and the alms giver, is aimed at controlling and eradicating begging activities.

Panganiban, in a document explaining the mendicancy problem in the Cordillera, said begging as a trade started in a small village in western Mt. Province.

She said American missionaries flooded Sitio Bugang in Sagada, Mt. Province, with food and other basic needs after a strong typhoon hit the area shortly before World War II erupted in 1941.

"According to accounts from

those who witnessed the devastation, the community suffered immense human casualties and significant loss of property. Livelihood was affected and this exacerbated their already difficult situation," she said.

Panganiban said the American missionaries were already in Mt. Province at that time and owing to their charity and the nature of their missions, "these missionaries became generous sponsors."

"(They) gave food and non-food items. Financial assistance to the victims was also part of the benevolence of these missionaries," she said.

Aid

The villagers saw an easy way to acquire their daily needs through aid and donations, she said. "Capitalizing on the annual storms and typhoons that hit the country, begging became a regular activity for many, thus an industry was born in the province (Mt. Province)," she said.

Since then, begging activities have been seen as lucrative pursuits, as those who engaged in it have been able to "live the good life."

"The trade expanded to other areas in (Mt. Province) and had been passed on from one generation to the other," said Panganiban.

Based on DSWD findings, 95 percent of the "rescued" beggars were the same people held in previous Sagip Kalinga operations.

"We keep on sending them home but they keep on returning to the streets," she said.

Lucrative?

She said the beggars often change their names and other personal data to confuse members of the DSWD's Task Force Anti-Mendicancy.

Panganiban said their findings also showed that the beggars have their own land and houses and even money deposited in commercial banks.

She said begging has become

a lucrative business as beggars earn as much as P20,000 a month.

"Mobile beggars" earned bigger, she said, especially during

the "peak season," which starts from October to January.

But in Baguio, begging is a year-round activity.

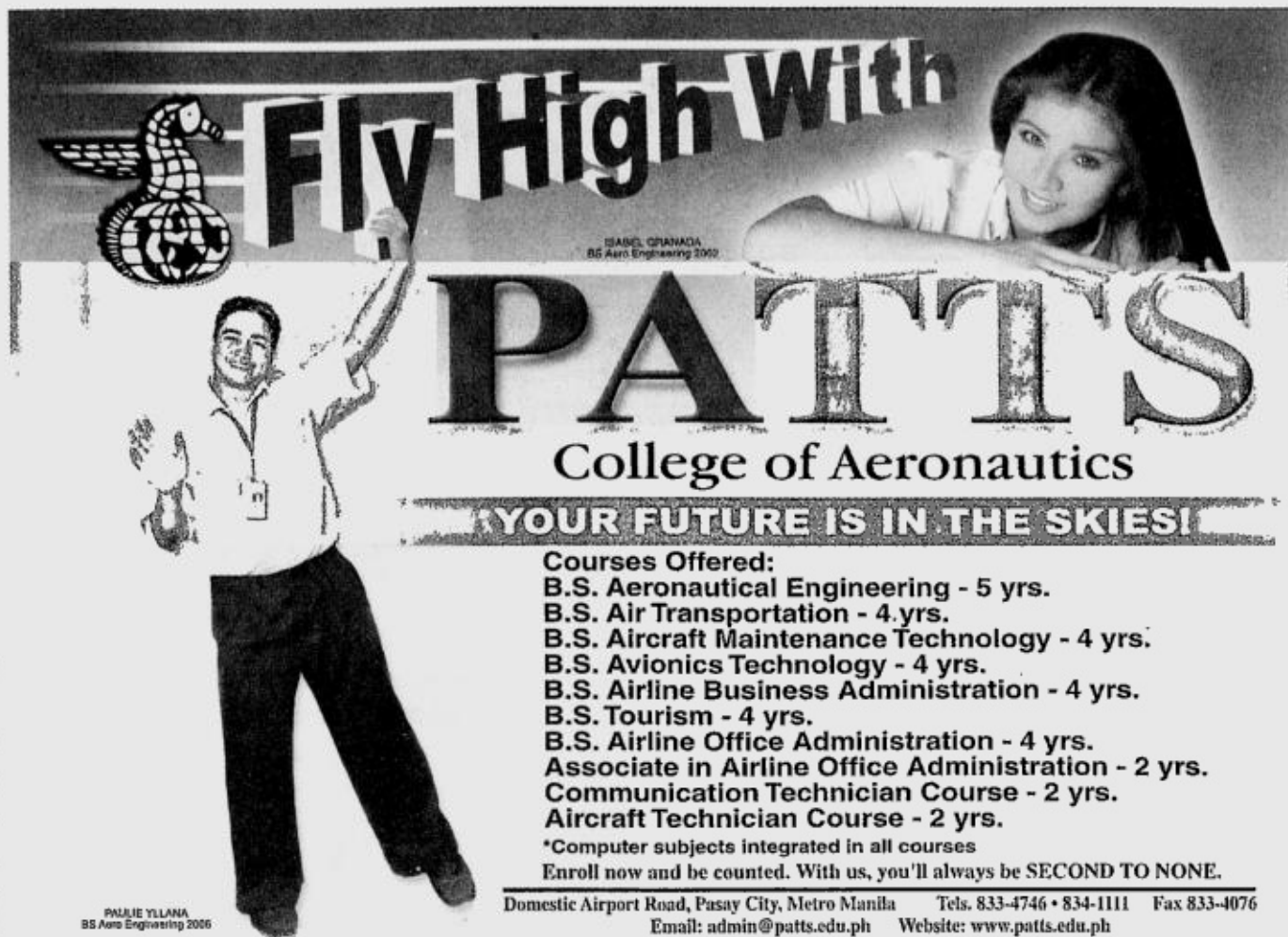
"It is a tourist destination . . .

the tourism peak months are also the begging season," she said.

Last year, at least 18 Cordillera elders, all natives of Mt. Province who were begging in Metro Ma-

nila, were rescued by DSWD personnel.

"Most of them were the same people who were taken home the previous year," Panganiban said.



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Ibalois question rules allowing industries entry to tribal areas

BAGUIO CITY—The Ibalois based here and in Benguet accused the chair of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) last week of railroading a new set of rules that allows industries access to areas inhabited or staked by indigenous Filipinos, documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed.

They asked NCIP Chair Evelyn Dunuan in an April 29 petition to suspend Administrative Order No. 3, the revised guidelines for the issuance of Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC).

The guidelines "sanction the ease of FPIC issuance over and above continuing community opposition," they argued.

"This is because the order grants (the) NCIP the mandatory and final right to issue FPIC certificates when the spirit of the law grants that exclusive right to the indigenous Filipino communities alone. We would not have even realized this had we not been given information about the order. We were never consulted," a spokesperson of the Ibaloi clans said on Thursday.

He said the order appeared to have been put in place in a "sinister plot" to legitimize ongoing corporate and government projects located within contested ancestral domain areas.

The order came on the heels of a controversy between the NCIP and Malacañang involving the \$1.1-billion San Roque Multipurpose Dam Project (SRMDP).

The NCIP intervened in the lobby against the SRMDP on behalf of the Ibalois of Benguet, but had failed to convince President Macapagal-Arroyo to drop the flagship program.

Dunuan told the INQUIRER in November last year that Malacañang failed to obtain the Ibalois' "free prior and informed consent" when the Ramos administration started the San Roque Dam and irrigation project in 1995.

The San Roque Dam straddles two barangays of Itogon in Benguet, four barangays of San Manuel, and two barangays of San Nicolas in Pangasinan.

But Ms Macapagal directed Malacañang to ignore the FPIC findings, after being advised by legal experts that the San Roque contract had been finalized weeks before the Ipra was signed into law.

Under the Constitution, no law can be applied retroactively.

Malacañang is in deep negotiations with the Benguet provincial board to secure its endorsement of the SRMDP seven years after the project was started.

"We are aware of (the original predecessor) AO 3, series of 1989, and the need to revise its provisions. We are at a loss as to the way (the new order, AO 3, series of 2002) is being rushed and arbitrarily revised without due consultation and input from those who will be directly affected by its provisions. That is why we feel perhaps that the revised guidelines strongly appear to be lopsided, anti-indigenous Filipino and patently illegal," the petition said.

"To date, the Camp John Hay Development Corp., the city government, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and the Office of the Solicitor General are impatiently awaiting the opportunity to secure the FPIC at all cost." **Vincent Cabreza and Katrina Agnes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

Water Watch

How to compute your Maynilad water bill

Your Account Name and Address

DELA CRUZ JUAN
ST. MATTHEW - ST. JOHN

Account No., Property No., Meter No., Rate Code, and Billing Scheme

Account No. 0028976401-1 (141)
Property No. 484820
Meter No. 8016234039
Rate Code Residential (D)
Billing Scheme R

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES, INC.
MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Bldg. 2, Quezon City
Tel. No. 1-201-8421 • 842103

Bill Control No. 29975554

Branch Office handling your account

NOVALICHES 01 (220)

Bill Month 01/2002

Billed Consumption (cu. m.)

Present Reading	2516
Previous Reading	2486
Consumption	30

Summary of Charges

Total Arrears	P 0
Current Charges	P 323.96
Total Amount Due	P 323.96

Due Date Due on 16 Feb 2002

Collection Stub / Bank Copy

Due immediately
Due on 16 Feb 2002 323.96

Reminders

Customer's Copy

Reminders

For inquiries or comments, please call the Maynilad Water Hotline at 1626

Here's how:

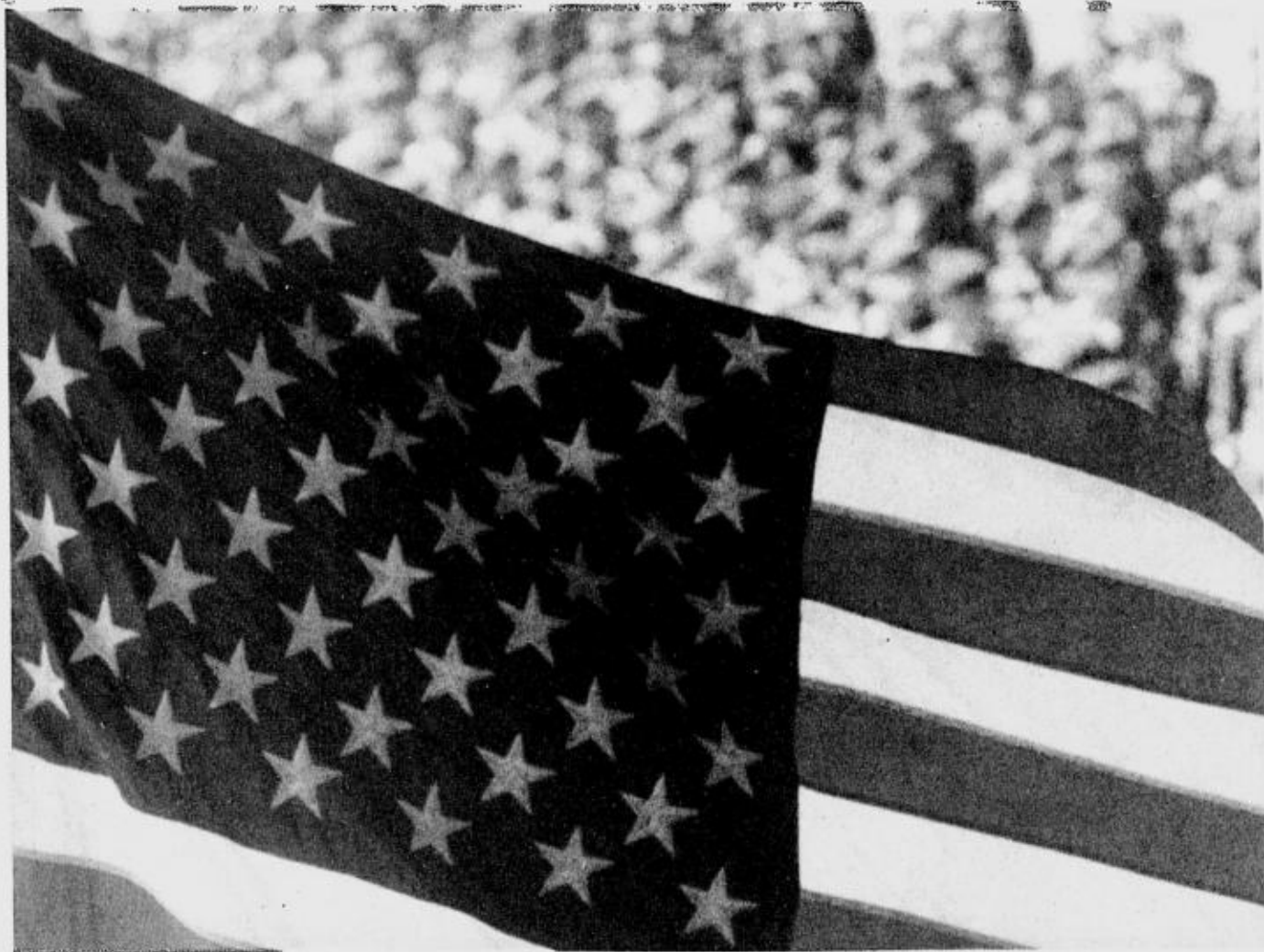
1 Basic Charge -- Billed cu. meter x water tariff: P 174.15 <table border="1"> <tr><th>Rate</th><th>Cubic meter consumed</th><th>Rate charge</th></tr> <tr><td>1st 10</td><td>38.35</td><td>10</td><td>38.35</td></tr> <tr><td>next 10</td><td>4.68</td><td>10</td><td>46.80</td></tr> <tr><td>next 20</td><td>8.90</td><td>10</td><td>89.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Total</td><td>30</td><td></td><td>174.15</td></tr> </table> 2 CERA -- fixed at P 1.00* per cubic meter consumed P 1.00 x 30 cubic meters = P 30.00 3 FCDA** -- Foreign Currency Differential Adjustment is 35.73% (for 1st quarter of 2002) of basic charge P 174.15 x 0.3573 = P 62.22 4 Environmental Charge*** -- 10% of Items 1, 2, 3 (P 174.15 + 30.00 + 62.22) = P 266.37 P 266.37 x .1 = P 26.64 (If connected to sewer line add 50% of Items 1, 2 & 3) (P 174.15 + 30.00 + 62.22) = P 266.37 P 266.37 x .5 = P 133.19	Rate	Cubic meter consumed	Rate charge	1st 10	38.35	10	38.35	next 10	4.68	10	46.80	next 20	8.90	10	89.00	Total	30		174.15	5 MSC-- Maintenance Service Charge based on meter size P 1.50 <table border="1"> <tr><th>Meter Size</th><th>Amount</th></tr> <tr><td>1/2" or 13mm</td><td>P 1.50</td></tr> <tr><td>3/4" or 20 mm</td><td>P 2.00</td></tr> <tr><td>1" or 25 mm</td><td>P 3.00</td></tr> </table> 6 Penalty-- 3% of bills not paid on due date, 0.03 x all charges (except VAT), if any P 0.00 7 VAT-- Value Added Tax 10% of Items 1 to 6 P 174.15 + 30.00 + 62.22 + P 26.64 + 1.50 + 0.00 = P 294.51 P 294.51 x .1 = P 29.45 8 Total Current Charges -- total of Items 1 to 7 P 174.15 + 30.00 + 62.22 + P 26.64 + 1.50 + 0.00 + 29.45 = P 323.96	Meter Size	Amount	1/2" or 13mm	P 1.50	3/4" or 20 mm	P 2.00	1" or 25 mm	P 3.00
Rate	Cubic meter consumed	Rate charge																										
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1/2" or 13mm	P 1.50																											
3/4" or 20 mm	P 2.00																											
1" or 25 mm	P 3.00																											

*** CERA -- over the life of the concession.**
**** FCDA -- for recovery of Foreign Exchange losses for loans denominated in foreign currency.**
***** Environmental Charge -- charged to all services to cover desludging and other environmental cleaning costs.**

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THE AMERICAN flag flutters before US and Filipino Marines during the closing ceremony of the Balikatan 02-2 in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija.

Balikatan 02-2 ends; crash victim dies

From page A1

Daniel Policarpio, was killed in that May 2 accident, while several others were wounded.

The crash was the second accident involving Philippine Air Force assets. An MG-520 helicopter earlier crashed while trying to land.

Success

Despite the accidents, the joint military exercise was described as "successful" in some aspects.

"The exercise was successful in terms of training. In skills, there was nothing derogatory (about Filipino soldiers)," Col. Horacio Lactao, Balikatan 02-2 exercise co-director, said.

However, he added that there were problems with Philippine equipment as exemplified by the

crashes.

"There were some problems in equipment as shown by the accidents. Training showed the state of readiness of our forces," he said in a telephone interview.

Their recommendations, Lactao added, were still being consolidated.

The Balikatan 02-2 ends today with ceremonies at the Clark Field Officers' Club.

Mission

Balikatan's humanitarian mission to Cavite that benefited thousands of indigent residents was completed on Saturday. A total of 291 Filipino and American soldiers flocked to the area for a series of civic action missions that started April 4.

Engineers constructed a pre-fabricated school building and repaired several classrooms and

other school facilities in Barangays Pinagsanhan, Maragondon and Sapang in Ternate.

Filipino doctors and other medical personnel conducted primary health care services and performed minor procedures and circumcision using medical and dental equipment and medicines provided by the United States.

The activity was concentrated at the Cavite National Science High School and Bucal II Elementary School in Maragondon, and the San Juan Elementary School and the Ternate Central School in Ternate.

A total of 14,000 patients were treated for various illnesses.

Protesters

In Calamba City, however, some 400 people yesterday joined a caravan yesterday by the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog and the Movement for the Advancement of Nationalism to

oppose the joint RP-US Military Exercises in Ternate.

The activity aimed to "vehemently condemn the puppetry of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the US imperialist and big local and foreign capitalists."

The group assailed the alleged continuing militarization in Southern Tagalog and the entry of the US troops.

The 14-vehicle caravan started at Trece Martires City at 8 a.m. and passed by Naic, Maragondon, Tanza, Ternate and Noveleta towns and Cavite City where a program was held.

Pastor Mel Abesamis, Bayan-NT chair, said the local police demanded a permit from the protesting group.

When they were unable to stop the group from proceeding with their program, the policemen instead put up their own sound system to disrupt the activity, Abesamis claimed. **With a report from Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Choice of next AFP chief a tough call for Gloria

From page A1

Angelo Reyes, whose vote could prove crucial, but he faces some resistance from current and retired officers because he is not the most senior candidate and because, he being scheduled to retire in July, his term may be extended.

But appointing Cimatru could provoke charges of a return to a hated practice of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who extended the careers of aging generals loyal to him, political analyst Antonio Gatmaitan said.

The practice helped provoke a military-backed "people power revolt" in 1986 which ended Marcos' 20-year rule.

"You could agitate the young, middle-ranking officers that it's back to the old days," Gatmaitan said.

Temporary discontent

But retired Gen. Alfred Filler, head of the risk-control firm Independent Insights Inc., said that even if Ms Macapagal's choice proved unpopular, discontent would not last long.

"A lot of noise comes up when the time comes for the President to make that choice but the majority of the (members of the) Armed Forces are professional and work with whoever the President appoints. I think that's what is going to happen," Filler said.

Camiling is the most senior and has commanded the most divisions, including the 6th Infantry, which figured prominently in then President Joseph Estrada's "all-out war" against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2000. Camiling also once served as Southcom chief.

Cimatru replaced Camiling at the height of the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis. In his current post, he has direct command of about 40 percent of the 130,000-strong military and is in charge of the country's most critical security task: containing a decades-old Moro rebellion and crushing the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Washington has linked the Abu Sayyaf to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden and has sent hundreds of troops to train Filipinos to help eliminate the group.

Some analysts have said that Abaya, the most junior of the three but with a reputation of being a "deep thinker" who projects himself well, would be the least controversial choice. He is a West Point graduate whose former unit—the 1st Infantry Division—rescued 50 teachers and students from the Abu Sayyaf in 2000.

Reyes was AFP chief of staff in January 2001 when he withdrew the military's support from Estrada during the impeachment crisis. It was the final act that led to Estrada's fall from grace and catapulted Ms Macapagal to power. He was named

defense secretary in March 2001, with Villanueva replacing him at the helm of the AFP.

Prerogative

At the Palace, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said that not even Cabinet members knew whether Ms Macapagal had already made up her mind. "It is a prerogative she alone exercises," Afable said. "She will make it in time."

He said the final choice would be the officer who has the President's "complete trust and confidence." He said the President would choose someone who "could lead the AFP professionally, follow the Constitution and unite the soldiery and the commands."

Aside from Camiling, Abaya and Cimatru, other candidates for the post include Lt. Gen. Dionisio Santiago, Air Force chief Benjamin Defensor and Navy chief Victorino Hingco.

"All candidates are of top caliber," the AFP spokesperson, Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, said. "Whoever is chosen has the credentials. There will be no problem whoever is chosen."

Grumbling within the military alone would not be enough to unsettle the presidency, analysts said, but unrest could grow dangerously if there was parallel discontent in civil society.

The President faces considerable opposition from Estrada's supporters and from left-of-center groups, despite her majority in Congress and support from the powerful Catholic Church in addition to the military. But rumors of political instability have hounded her 15-month tenure.

"You have to give the least possible reason for your enemies outside to agitate. She must choose the one that will provide the least ammunition to her enemies, the one that will stoke the fires least," Gatmaitan said.

Senator Biazon also said any discontent in the military could feed into civil unhappiness.

Ms Macapagal's presidency could be seriously challenged if grumbling among soldiers occurred simultaneously with civic protests, Biazon added. And although there was little dissatisfaction in the military now, it could surface.

"Things can be swayed one way or the other by senior generals and their followers... It will be a crucial decision for (the President) so there is need for her to be able to justify her choice."

"Little by little, the genie has been pushed back into the bottle," Biazon said, referring to past military adventurism. "But it may not stay there." **Reuters, with reports from Martin Marfil and Carlito Pablo**

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Monday, May 6, 2002
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples, "From the Father, I will send you the Spirit of truth. When this Helper has come from the Father, he will be my witness, and you, too, will be my witnesses for you have been with me from the beginning."

"I tell you all this to keep you from stumbling and falling away. They will put you out of the Jewish communities. Still more, the hour is coming when anyone who kills you will claim to be serving God; they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. I tell you all these things now so that when the time comes you may remember that I told you."

"I did not tell you about this in the beginning because I was with you."

Commentary

Jesus' words confirm that persecution will be a permanent feature of Christian life. If there is no persecution then perhaps our witness to Jesus' values and way of life has become pale, unconvincing and unchallenging. We have absorbed worldly ways instead of being a counter-witness with the Holy Spirit.

Today's gospel encouraged the Johannine community when it experienced persecution from diehard elements, prepared to kill others in the name of God, imagining this was a service to God! If this happens to members of our community, our call as Christians is to love our enemies and pray for them. Then Jesus' words and promises will have been proven true by the witness of our lives. We will continue God's redemptive work by our refusal to return evil for evil.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—*Motu proprio* dismissal of a case.—The *motu proprio* dismissal of a case was traditionally limited to instances when the court clearly had no jurisdiction over the subject matter and when the plaintiff did not appear during trial, failed to prosecute his action for an unreasonable length of time or neglected to comply with the rules or with any order of the court. Outside of these instances, any *motu proprio* dismissal would amount to a violation of the right of the plaintiff to be heard. Except for qualifying and expanding Section 2, Rule 9 and Section 3, Rule 17 of the Revised Rules of Court, the amendatory 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure brought about no radical change. Under the new rules, a court may *motu proprio* dismiss a claim when it appears from the pleadings or evidence on record that it has no jurisdiction over the subject matters; when there is another cause of action pending between the same parties for the same cause; or where the action is barred by a prior judgment or by statute of limitations. Improper venue not being included in the enumeration, it should follow that *motu proprio* dismissal on said ground would still not be allowed under the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure. Sections 6, Rule 16 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure further provides that if no motion to dismiss has been filed, any of the grounds for dismissal provided under the rules, including improper venue, may be pleaded as an affirmative defense in the answer, and upon the discretion of the court, a preliminary hearing may be made thereon as if a motion to dismiss has been filed. But, as it is, improper venue not having been so raised by respondent as a ground to dismiss, he must be deemed to have waived the same. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Vitug, Third Division, Gumabon v. Larin, G. R. No. 142523, Nov. 27, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

GMA, Angara-led opposition losers in political summit

From page A1

of which were provincial parties, participated in the summit.

The significance of the summit is that it was the first attempt to rebuild the party system after the dismantling in 1972 of the two-party system by the Marcos dictatorship.

The proliferation of the parties itself accentuated the weakness of the party system as a central organizing force in democratic politics, resulting in the shift of political action from party structures and institutions to the streets.

The shift led to two changes of administrations in 15 years through the extra-electoral mode called people power—the first in 1986 with the overthrow of the Marcos regime, and the second in 2001, with the toppling of President Joseph Estrada's administration.

The tendency of taking street action to change elected leaders, the rise of military intervention as a pivotal force in the overthrow of regimes, and the activism of unruly civil society groups in seeking revolving-door change of administrations prompted Speaker Jose de Venecia's initiative to bring back order and method in governance through the rebuilding of the party system.

De Venecia is an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, permitting her to hold a majority in the House.

Even so, she has been suspicious of the summit as a move by party-based politicians both within the administration coalition and from the opposition to block her reelection in 2004 and to wrest control of the national agenda-setting function from the presidency.

Charter revision

Despite her lukewarm atti-

tude and the boycott by some opposition parties, the summit appears to have driven the participating parties toward constitutional revision that would correct the inadequacies of the gridlock-prone presidential system.

The strength of the undercurrent for constitutional change leading to a shift to the parliamentary system was emphasized in the resolutions passed by the summit.

This mood clashed head-on with the resistance of Ms Macapagal to the launching of an early process for constitutional change.

In reality, the central theme of the summit was constitutional change to avert political deadlocks by adopting a more flexible framework to change administrations that have lost political legitimacy, and to introduce reforms in the economic provisions of the Constitution.

The backdrop of this movement to install a more flexible system is the constitutional crisis that confronted Estrada, the first Filipino President who was driven to an impeachment trial by widespread popular unrest.

The momentum for the rebuilding of the party system as the core of democratic and stable politics is propelled by the fact that the initiative for the summit did not come from President Macapagal.

It was also pushed by the main parties in the House.

The Lakas-NUCD, the administration party, has the most number in the House with 79, followed by businessman Danding Cojuangco's NPC, with 50; and the Liberal Party, 21.

These parties, plus about two dozen smaller parties, closed ranks behind the summit initiative in a manifestation of legisla-

tive autonomy from the President's preference for the status quo.

Sen. Edgardo Angara's PDP-Laban, the main opposition party, has only 18 seats in the House. In the multiparty setup in the Senate, the PDP-Laban is merely one of the components of a loosely knit opposition coalition, which includes the PDP-Laban of Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel.

Neither the President's resistance to change nor the boycott of Angara's and Pimentel's parties has the force to turn back the apparently growing momentum for bringing back the parties into the center of politics to replace the idiosyncratic and unpredictable moods of such civil society groups as Copa (Council for Philippine Affairs) or the PCA (People's Consultative Assembly).

These two organizations, which are seeking the President's removal from office before 2004, have been referred to by Ms Macapagal herself as among the political groups trying to hold her administration hostage with their disaffection of it.

Angara

Angara and his cohorts who have boycotted the summit stand being marginalized by this new mainstream of the public mood for change and the restoration of the central role of parties.

Many are puzzled over his explanation that he did not participate in the summit in protest over what he claims to be a government plan to arrest him and Sen. Panfilo Lacson if violence exploded in the street marches on Labor Day, May 1.

Angara claimed existence of intelligence reports on the arrest plan. Given that intelligence networks are a catchall to ru-

mors and even planted information, Angara reacted on the basis of a non-event. The reports were not verified and that the Labor Day passed without violence.

Angara has established his position in the moderate stream of politics. During the inflammatory opposition rallies of April 2001 leading to the May 1 attack on Malacañang, Angara was known as a moderate and was never targeted for arrest. Such reports of plans to arrest him therefore lacked credibility.

Opposition militants have also lashed the Macapagal administration for having established a "police state" for preventing large concentration of protesters and the show of force of the police and military units.

The police-state charge does not wash. If there were such a state, the militant opposition spokespersons would now be rotting in jail.

The show of force was necessary to send a message that the state meant business to crush any new attempt at rebellion. We all know that if the state does not have the will to defend itself, it will be mocked and pummeled by malcontents. Witness the May 1, 2001, rebellion.

In this country, if the government shows weakness, it will invite rebellion and disorder.

In the summit that has given momentum to the rebuilding of the role of the parties in promoting political stability, the first loser is the President for resisting it, and second the opposition led by Angara.

Angara made a costly decision that can only lead to his isolation and marginalization, despite his high popularity ratings in the opinion polls.

Summit OKs Charter revision after 2004

From page A1

practice connotes constant debate on all issues affecting the public interest," they said. "And this must be differentiated from constant combat that puts the constitutional order on line at every turn."

Deepening frustration

In his closing remarks, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. said the conference "initiates us into a new culture of cooperation among political parties and party leaders."

De Venecia told reporters that the political parties would continue to reach out to the opposition, which boycotted the summit.

The Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) decided to skip the summit in protest of an alleged plan to arrest its president, Sen. Edgardo Angara. The PDP-Laban, Reporma-Lapiang Manggagawa and Bayan

Muna also boycotted the summit.

The opposition bloc in the House of Representatives said the summit failed to accomplish anything because the issues discussed were "replays of an old song."

"The 42-paragraph declaration shows that there is nothing new (that was to be tackled) in the summit. Practically all (the items) are motherhood statements," House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said.

But Padilla, LDP deputy secretary general, expressed appreciation over the "admission" by summit organizers that the Philippine economy "lags behind almost all the other countries in East and Southeast Asia."

The declaration says that "the economy has faltered because of mistaken policies, distorted priorities, instances of mistaken foreign dictation and multilateral advice."

Embarrassed

"At least they were being honest in admitting that they are 'painfully embarrassed' over these observations," said Padilla of the lone district of Nueva Vizcaya.

"But the summit would have accomplished more if participants were able to get the President to agree to all these 'painful' observations," he said.

The militant Sanlakas in Quezon described the summit as one "grand political compromise" between President Macapagal-Arroyo and De Venecia.

"De Venecia got his wish in soliciting support for his Cha-cha while Ms Macapagal was assured of her chances for reelection for the 2004 presidential race," said Lourdes Monterey, Sanlakas-Quezon coordinator.

Monterey called the summit the

height of political hypocrisy.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, president of the Lakas-NUCD, lauded the participants of the summit for rising above partisanship and for establishing a vision.

Norberto Gonzales, presidential adviser on special concerns, said the summit was a dialogue among political parties and "not a unification of political parties to back up Malacañang."

"This summit was not intended to secure support for Malacañang," said Gonzales, chair of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas.

Satisfied

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, president of the Liberal Party, said he was satisfied with how the summit turned out because of the concrete proposals on electoral, constitutional and political reforms.

"Now we have some basis for pur-

suing (the reforms)," Abad said.

Equally satisfied with the summit was Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales.

Rosales said she and members of other party-list groups and of the academe and civil society who took part in the summit, were able to push for certain reform measures and to get rid of controversial provisions in the declaration.

She mentioned the scrapping of a provision in the draft declaration that "jumped together" mass demonstrations with coups and rebellions as among those to be condemned by the political parties if these were aimed at changing duly elected governments.

Rosales said there were legitimate demonstrations that people could stage against tyrannical governments.

The revised declaration said the political parties condemned all forms of destabilization.

Other changes in the declaration were:

- From the original proposal to abolish the Judicial and Bar Council, the declaration now calls for the "review of the relevance" of the JBC.

- The declaration originally provided for a Con-con "with the appropriate disqualification of the elected delegates from political participation under the new Constitution to ensure their impartiality." This entire clause was omitted.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. questioned the deletion of the clause but Rosales explained that delegates from civil society groups and the academe had removed it from the final declaration because it was not taken up in the workshop. **With reports from Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Joker...

From page A1
structive and not be self-serving."

Arroyo took exception to the LDP's claim that it was withdrawing "critical collaboration" with Malacañang.

"What critical collaboration will the LDP say it will end when it never gave that to the administration in the first place?" Arroyo said.

He found it surprising that the LDP boycotted the political summit, which it had earlier proposed through Sen. Blas Ople, an LDP stalwart.

"Take the political summit? They (LDP leaders) started it. But at the last minute, they tried to short-circuit the summit by raising the bogey of arrests," Arroyo said.

Arroyo was referring to the announcement of Angara that he and Sen. Panfilo Lacson would be blamed for any violence during the Labor Day celebrations and that they would subsequently be arrested and charged with rebellion.

Angara said he had received reports that the Philippine National Police had an intelligence report that he and Lacson would be blamed for mobilizing a team that would create trouble during the Labor Day rallies. No major violent incident, however, marred the May 1 celebrations.

Arroyo said the absence of the LDP's "critical collaboration" was seen in Angara's reluctance to interpellate sponsors of two vital bills. One seeks to raise the salaries of judges and the other seeks to allow private lawyers to assist the Office of the Ombudsman in prosecuting graft cases.

"After three long months, (Angara) started his interpellation on the bill on judges only last week. He has not started on the Ombudsman bill. And we will go on recess on June 6 or just a month from now," Arroyo said.

In Iloilo City, House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez described the LDP boycott as "a childish act of Angara and his group."

"The summit has nothing to do with the issue that they are being hounded by Malacañang," Gonzalez said. "In fact, Angara was part of the group, which prepared the agenda for the summit. Why should he attack the summit?"

Gonzalez said Angara was simply looking for issues to boost his chances in the 2004 elections.

"If its leaders are acting that way, then the LDP is poorly led," said Gonzalez, who represents Iloilo City's lone district.

For his part, Rep. Arthur Defensor, the House assistant majority leader, said the LDP boycott was "inappropriate."




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Joel, a young man of extremely varied interests, is one person who manages to excel in everything he sets his mind to. This 7th GTAAA Overall Awardee is a candidate for the highest honors when he graduates this June from De La Salle University, with a degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering and, with this GTAAA achievement, is also an awardee of the BPI Science Awards.

Highly independent, Joel admits that he is a classic case for the "middle-child syndrome." Paying attention to details is, he admits, his strongest trait which often makes him emerge as the leader in group activities. Joel muses that he is also an expert when it comes to "juggling his time" — which is why he is able to spread himself in a lot of extra-curricular activities.

Indeed, an interesting blend of academic excellence and well-rounded interpersonal and social skills is what makes this year's GTAAA Overall Awardee a young leader worth keeping an eye on in the coming years.

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Giants rip Reds, make it 3 straight

SAN FRANCISCO—Ryan Jensen made the most of an emergency situation, helping the San Francisco Giants take a combined no-hitter into the eighth inning before beating the Cincinnati Reds 3-0 Saturday.

Barry Bonds homered off Jimmy Haynes (2-4), his 400th in a San Francisco uniform as the Giants won their third straight.

Jensen (2-2) took over from Schmidt with two outs in the first inning and carried a no-hitter into the eighth. Jason LaRue broke up the bid with a solid single into left field.

Cardinals 3, Braves 2

In St. Louis, Jason Simonacchi worked seven strong innings in his major league debut, rescuing pitching-strapped St. Louis.

Kerry Robinson, Tino Martinez and Placido Polanco drove in a run apiece for the Cardinals, who have won only six of their last 19. The Cardinals have six pitchers, five of them starters, on the disabled list.

Mariners 9, Yankees 5

In New York, Jeff Cirillo took part in an early game of home-run derby, then blooped a tiebreaking single off Mariano Rivera in the ninth inning Saturday that gave the Seattle Mariners a 9-5 victory over the New York Yankees.

In a game featuring six home runs, the Mariners won their third in a row. They rallied from a 5-0 deficit, and took advantage of Rivera's throwing error to score four times in the ninth.

Indians 3, Rangers 0

In Cleveland, Bartolo Colon dominated for eight shutout innings and Omar Vizquel homered as Cleveland snapped a six-game losing streak.

Colon (4-3) gave up four hits and started two double plays for the Indians, who also halted a seven-game losing streak at Jacobs Field by winning for just the third

time in 18 games.

Orioles 10, Royals 0

In Baltimore, Rodrigo Lopez (4-0) allowed five hits over seven shutout innings, and Melvin Mora and Marty Cordova hit three-run homers as Baltimore dealt Kansas City its fifth straight loss.

Tony Batista homered and scored four runs for the Orioles, who reached .500 (15-15) for the first time since their second game of the year.

Blue Jays 4, Angels 1

In Toronto, Justin Miller allowed one run in seven innings and Toronto ended its nine-game losing streak.

Toronto ended Anaheim's eight-game winning streak and halted their longest losing streak in eight years.

Red Sox 7, Devil Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Shea Hillenbrand's two-out, pinch-hit grand slam capped a five-run ninth inning and Boston the victory.

The towering drive to left field off Victor Zambrano (1-2) struck one of the catwalks that ring the outfield at Tropicana Field - about 120 feet (36 meters) above the playing surface.

White Sox 10, Athletics 2

In Chicago, Jose Valentin drove in five runs and Ray Durham homered as Chicago roughed up Tim Hudson and beat Oakland.

Complete results:

American League—Cleveland 3, Texas 0; Seattle 9, NY Yankees 5; Toronto 4, Anaheim 1; Baltimore 10, Kansas City 0; Boston 7, Tampa Bay 5; Chi White Sox 10, Oakland 2; Minnesota 3, Detroit 2;

National League—Milwaukee 6, Florida 4; St. Louis 3, Atlanta 2; San Francisco 3, Cincinnati 0; Philadelphia 6, Colorado 5; Houston 3, NY Mets 1; Arizona 6, Montreal 5 (11 innings); San Diego 3, Pittsburgh 0; Los Angeles 3, Chicago Cubs 2.

Reuters



BONDS points up the air after hitting a home run in the first inning against the Cincinnati Reds. It was Bonds' 576th career home run. Bonds became the first player in major league history to hit 400 home runs with one team and 100 with another when he connected off Cincinnati's Jimmy Haynes in the first inning.

Dickies drivers lauded

By Dennis Eroa

DODY Arcaya, Dickies vice president for sales and marketing, lauded drivers Monching and Tonton Gutierrez for their impressive shows in the second round of the SVI Challenge Cup races at the Subic International Raceway.

"Dickies initial success in the prestigious SVI Challenge Cup is really inspiring. I'm sure Monching and Tonton will keep the team on top in the coming races," said Arcaya.

Dickies is teaming up with MP Turbo as it seeks to stamp its mark in the action-filled SVI racing circuit.

Monching won two rounds as he seeks a second straight Challenge Cup crown, while Tonton finished second to his brother in the third race.

"It was a very good start," said Monching, who didn't see action in the first round due to a pressing commitment in New Zealand. "I'm sure our rivals will come out more determined in the succeeding races."

Arcaya agreed with Monching's observation. "As the race grows older, Dickies-MP Turbo expects a tougher stint. We're ready to meet and hurdle challenges."

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563-8461 to 1079, 563-8461 to 1081, 563-8461 to 1083, 563-8461 to 1085, 563-846

Kings repulse Mavericks in West semifinal opener

STOJAKOVIC (right) dunks against a helpless Raef LaFrentz of Dallas in the second period. Stojakovic shone with 26 points in the Kings' 108-91 victory. AP

Stojakovic, Divac star

SACRAMENTO, California—In the first heat of what's looking like a best-of-seven track meet, the Sacramento Kings simply ran away from Dallas.

Peja Stojakovic scored 26 points, and Vlade Divac had 18 points and 16 rebounds as the Kings beat the Mavericks 108-91 Saturday in the opening game of the NBA Western Conference semifinal series.

The highly anticipated meeting of the NBA's two highest-scoring teams mostly lived up to its billing, with all of the high-octane offense, ball movement and quick shots to be expected from the clubs riding the crest of the league's wave of the future.

But the Mavericks, who led the NBA in scoring and managed more than 112 points per game in their first-round sweep of Minnesota, never got into high gear while shooting less than 39 percent.

Meanwhile, Sacramento played tough defense and capitalized on its low-post options of Chris Webber and Divac - options the Mavericks don't have.

The Kings won the Pacific Division and finished with the NBA's best regular-season record, but many

around the league considered them an underdog against Dallas, with its up-tempo offense and collection of scorers.

What's more, the Mavericks had won their last three games in Sacramento and were the only opposing team to beat the Kings twice at Arco Arena during the regular season. They took three of four from the Kings overall.

But with a solid Game 1 victory, Sacramento reminded the league which team showed Dallas coach Don Nelson that this up-tempo style could work in the first place.

Dirk Nowitzki had 23 points - on 8-of-24 shooting - and 14 rebounds for the Mavericks, while Michael Finley had 21 points and Nick Van Exel 15. All-Star point guard Steve Nash struggled, scoring 12 points and making four turnovers.

Webber scored 20 points in the first three quarters, but fouled out on two quick calls in the fourth. His hands balled tightly into fists, the Kings' leading scorer watched from the bench as Stojakovic, Divac and Mike Bibby led the Kings to victory.

SEMIS SKED (MANILA TIME)

Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

Monday, May 6
Charlotte at N. Jersey, Game 1, 12:30 a.m.
Boston at Detroit, Game 1, 3 a.m.
S. Antonio at LA Lakers, Game 1, 5:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 7
Dallas at Sacramento, Game 2, 9 a.m. (Star Sports)
Wednesday, May 8
Charlotte at New Jersey, Game 2, 8 a.m. (ESPN)
S. Antonio at LA Lakers, Game 2, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, May 9
Boston at Detroit, Game 2, 8 a.m.
Friday, May 10
New Jersey at Charlotte, Game 3, 7 a.m.
Sacramento at Dallas, Game 3, 9:30 a.m.
Saturday, May 11
Detroit at Boston, Game 3, to be determined
LA Lakers at San Antonio, Game 3, tbd
Sunday, May 12
Sacramento at Dallas, Game 4, 3:30 a.m.
Monday, May 13

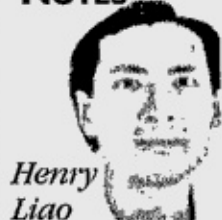
N. Jersey at Charlotte, Game 4, 12:30 a.m.
Detroit at Boston, Game 4, 3 a.m.
LA Lakers at San Antonio, Game 4, 5:30 a.m.
Tuesday, May 14
Dallas at Sacramento, Game 5*, tbd
Wednesday, May 15
Boston at Detroit, Game 5*, 8:00 a.m.
San Antonio at LA Lakers, Game 5*, 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, May 16
Sacramento at Dallas, Game 6*, TBD
Charlotte at New Jersey, Game 5*, tbd
Friday, May 17
Detroit at Boston, Game 6*, TBD
LA Lakers at San Antonio, Game 6*, tbd
Saturday, May 18
New Jersey at Charlotte, Game 6*, 8:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 19
San Antonio at LA Lakers, Game 7*, tbd
Dallas at Sacramento, Game 7*, TBD

Elite Eight

IT'S DOWN to the Elite Eight in the ongoing NBA playoffs and quite interestingly, the top four seeds in both the Eastern and Western Conferences have qualified for the conference semifinals or second round of the four-tier postseason.

Here's how the best-of-seven conference semifinal matchups shape up:

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

1—Sacramento vs. 4—Dallas

This series is expected to be a high-scoring, run-and-gun affair and may well be one of the most exciting. The Mavericks and Kings ranked 1-2 in the NBA in scoring with both clubs averaging at least 104 points per game during the regular campaign. Dallas, the NBA's top road team at 27-14, whipped Sacramento 3-1 in their head-to-head series. OUTLOOK: Sacramento had the best record in the NBA during the regulars for homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs but it is not the league's best team. Make ours Dallas over Sacramento in six games.

2—San Antonio vs. 3—LA Lakers

The Spurs and Lakers finished with identical 58-24 records during the regular season but the two-time reigning NBA titlists have the homecourt advantage in their playoff series due to their 3-1 head-to-head edge. OUTLOOK: LA owns a 17-game winning streak at the Staples Center and look for the Lakers to finish off San Antonio in five games.

EAST

1—New Jersey vs. 4—Charlotte

The Nets defeated the Hornets three of four times during the regular season and have the homecourt edge. But this series is one that could go either way. New Jersey survived a five-game thriller with Indiana in the first round and Charlotte knocked off Orlando in four games, including the last two away from home behind All-Star guard Baron Davis' back-to-back triple-doubles. OUTLOOK: Make this series a seven-game affair in favor of Charlotte.

2—Detroit vs. 3—Houston

Both the Pistons (vs. Toronto) and Celtics (vs. 2001 East champion Philadelphia) were stretched to five games in the first round and got their series win at home. In this one, Detroit has the homecourt edge. OUTLOOK: This series is all about defense vs. offense. The Pistons are among the league's top defensive units while the Celtics like to pile up the points. Living and dying by the perimeter or three-point shot. Look for Detroit to beat Boston in six games.

SPORTSWATCH

Ex-spiker sets kayak mark

LEONOR ESCOLLANTE set a new Philippine record in the fifth National Open Canoe and Kayak Championships last Wednesday. Escollante, a national volleyball player of seven years who shifted to the sport in 1997, erased her own record in women's 200-meter kayak by two seconds with a 54-second flat performance on mystical Taal Lake's scenic section off Balete town in Batangas. "I felt that if I had to win the gold medal, I had to go for the record," said Escollante moments after her record-breaking performance an enthusiastic crowd of Balete locals witnessed. She set the previous RP record of 56 seconds in last November's Southeast Asia championships in Malaysia. Escollante also bagged the kayak's 500 meters title in 2:23.80 to emerge as one of three competitors in the open to win two gold medals. April Mae Peñalosa, only 16, was a far second at 58.10 seconds in the 200 meters but her silver-medal finish reaffirmed her slot in the national team to the Busan Asian Games this September.

Choi maintains slim lead

NEW ORLEANS—K.J. Choi, trying to become the first South Korean winner on the PGA Tour, had three birdies and two bogeys in a 1-under 71 Saturday at the Compaq Classic that left him at 12-under 204, a stroke ahead of John Rollins (66) and tour hopeful Bryce Molder (69). "He says he will pray, he will eat well, he will sing some songs and he will have a good sleep," his translator said after Choi finished the third round right where he started—at the top of the leaderboard. First-round leader Dan Forsman had a 72, leaving him two shots off the pace at 10-under 206. Billy Andrade (68) was 9 under, and Chris DiMarco (70) topped a five-player group at 8 under. Defending champion David Toms (71) was 7 under, and Phil Mickelson (71) was 6 under. AP

Rain shortens LPGA event

STOCKBRIDGE, Georgia—Standing under an umbrella, Nancy Lopez couldn't believe how much rain was falling on the tournament that bears her name. "I'm so frustrated," said Lopez, host of the Chick-fil-A Charity Championship. "This is awful. And just think, we've been in a drought." On Saturday, the fourth rain delay in two days prompted LPGA Tour officials to shorten the tournament from 54 to 36 holes. Twenty-four players, including leader Kelly Robbins, didn't even get on the water-logged course at Eagles Landing Country Club. They were the lucky ones. "It's part of golf, I guess, but it's very frustrating," said Pearl Sinn, who struggled to a 79 in an opening round that stretched over two days. "I've been out here eight or nine hours and I've played 11 holes. AP

Sports Forum tomorrow

THE MEN behind the success of the 4th Pan Philippine marathon are the special guests in tomorrow's session of the weekly PSA Forum at the Holiday Inn Hotel. Head drivers Willie Ingles and Andy Dysangco and Nissan Philippines president Jack Wui join former Philippine Olympic Committee chief Julian Malonzo and Leslie Noble, Nestle's vice president for special events, in the Agfa Colors, Red Bull and Pioneer Insurance-backed public sports program. Others invited are Nissan Exalta navigators Ike Borja and Boy Fuentes, Vir Diwa and Tonette Lee, Nissan and marketing sales officers, and Arthur Wang of Nissan Philippines. Session starts at 10:30 a.m.

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva



One Winner will be back on May 12

Bacolod hosts RGFFP tilt June 13-15

ROTARY Club of Davao and Pepe Lim of RC Makati West will try to defend their respective titles when the 16th Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines (RGFFP) stage the southern leg of its annual tournament series on June 13-15.

Venue of the three-day bash are the well-kept Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club also known as Marapara and the Bacolod Golf and Country Club or Binitin.

Tournament fee is P2,800 if paid before June 5. It will increase to P4,000 if paid after June 5.

Registration and payments can be coursed through the RGFFP Secretariat through Pancho Perea or Erica Pekson (Tel. No. 7210564/7218896, fax 7218896/7215940), Alex Montelibano for Negros/Iloilo/Dumaguete participants (Tel. Nos. 034-4411190, 034-4411735), Anton Florendo for Cebu/Leyte/Cagayan de Oro/Iligan entries (tel. nos. 032-



SALAZAR

2535720, 032-2535728) and Ramon Garcia for Davao and Southern Mindanao players (Tel. Nos. 082-2212480, 082-2218162).

Taylor Made and Casino Filipino are once again backing the tourney as major sponsors with Taylor Made providing its top-of-the-line equipment for prizes and Casino Filipino hosting the team captains meeting, the welcome cocktails

and the awards dinner.

Other sponsors are Cebu Pacific which is offering a 50 per cent discount on plane fares for all participants, General Nutrition Centers, Menzi & Co. and PLDT.

The RGFFP now headed by Melito Salazar as chair already had held the northern leg in Baguio and the Corporate Challenge recently at Mimosa. If plans do not miscarry, an overseas trip to Vietnam will push through at yearend.

Tournament format is Stableford with full handicap. Each team will be allowed to field five players with the best four counting.

Ucap 7-cock derby gets going May 7, 9

THE 11TH Ucap at Alkalde Dominator JCAP 7-Cock Derby is all set on Tuesday and Thursday, May 7 and 9, at the Mandaluyong Coliseum with Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo as exclusive sponsors.

Submission of weights is today, Monday, May 6, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Derby hosts are Mayor Gerry "Boy" Espina, Alan Tan, Patrick Puno, Larry Amante and John Capinpin.

Meanwhile, former ambassador Danding Cojuangco (Bumble Balbina) and engineer Sonny Lagon and Mayor Joel Brillantes (Blue Blade JBB) topped the 10th Ucap 7-Cock Derby last week by posting six wins and one loss each.

Runner-up finishers, with five points apiece, were Palawan sportsman Mauro Prieto (Anito MB), Laguna cocker Pol Estrellado (PE San Pablo Hammer), OPMI president Vic Yu (Sir Vincent and King Boxer entries) and Ucap president Butch Macasaet (BJ Green wood).

Also set at Mandaluyong Coliseum is the 12th Ucap 7-Cock Derby on May 14 and 16 to be hosted by lawyer Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza ESM Ruel and Boy de Roca.

Ucap matchmakers Goody Lamboloto and Ariel Garovillo will host the special 4-cock derby on May 18. Entry fee is P10,000 and minimum bet is P5,500.



OVERALL WINNERS

OSCAR Ordinario and Billy Sta. Maria displaying their trophies and specially-designed bags as overall winners of the recent Eagle Ridge Invitational Golf tournament. Looking on is Makoy de Jesus of Alsons Land Corp.

Pasig, Marikina darters reign supreme

JAYWEN Macasaquit of Pasig upset top seed John Denver Oblades from Baguio City in the youth championship, while Willy Paz of Marikina City won the senior's singles title by edging Erning Bantoy in the recent Darterong Pinoy P75,000 Summer Dartfest.

The event was organized by the National Dart Foundation of the

Philippines (NDFF) in cooperation with Pearl Plaza.

It was sponsored by Caltex, Casino Filipino, SportsHouse, Robson Sportcraft and supported by Landway USA, Icarus and Chilgrass Advertising.

The other winners were June Reyes and Olongapo City darter Arvin San Gabriel in the Draw

Doubles, Hector Batislaon, Jojo Taday and Chuck Cruz in the Draw Triples, while national player Robert Reyes and Darwin Cruz were crowned fixed-doubles champions.

In the team championship, Louie de Jesus, Allan Santos, Raul Buenaflor and Joseph Balajediong scored another upset by beating

strong teams with national players.

Tito Soncuya, president of the NDFF, was pleased with the participation of players from all over the country.

Soncuya added that the meet served as a fitting prelude to the National Darterong Pinoy Championships in November.

KENTUCKY DERBY

War Emblem tops 'em

Trainer Baffert posts 3rd victory in 6 years

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky—War Emblem showed up at Bob Baffert's barn a mere three weeks ago, courtesy of the Saudi royal family. Even the trainer joked that he would need his best and shortest training job to win the Kentucky Derby.

Baffert came through.

War Emblem went wire-to-wire and left 17 3-year-old challengers in the dust, rolling to a four-length victory over Proud Citizen and giving Baffert his third Derby victory in six years.

"We sort of came in here through the back door, but we are leaving through the front door," Baffert said.

And with a lot of money. In addition to the winner's purse of \$1.875 million, War Emblem earned a \$1 million bonus from Sportsman's Park for winning the Derby after winning the Illinois Derby.

Genius

"I love you guys in America. Bob Baffert is a genius," the owner, Saudi Prince Ahmed Salman, said after becoming the first Arab to win.

Baffert's certainly a winner.

"I loved this horse," he said. "I just didn't know if he was good enough."

Neither did the bettors, who sent him off as a 20-1 shot.

The victory at Churchill Downs was Baffert's third in the last six Derbies; he won with Silver Charm in 1997 and Real Quiet in 1998. He finished fifth with Salman's favored Point Given last year.

The trainer joined Max Hirsch and "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons as three-time Derby-winning trainers. Only D. Wayne Lukas, with four, and Ben A. Jones, with six, have more.

Baffert was lucky to get here. He lost more than a dozen Derby prospects for various reasons, including the Saturday morning scratch of Danthebluegrassman.

And the only reason he had War Emblem was because the prince bought the horse after it won the Illinois Derby.

Solid second

Proud Citizen, Lukas' last-minute Derby chance after the colt won the Lexington Stakes, ran a solid second. Like Baffert, Lukas was not considered a serious contender despite past Derby success.

"I couldn't be happier with the way this horse ran," said Lukas, after finishing second in the Derby for the first time. "He beat some nice horses and I think he'll beat some more down the line."

War Emblem, as expected, set the pace in the 1-1/4-mile (2-kilometer) Derby and never let go of the lead, finishing in 2:01.13 - ninth-fastest in Derby history. The record belongs to Secretariat at 1:59 2/5 in 1973.

The victory was No. 5 in seven career starts and made War Emblem the first Derby winner to lead from the start since the filly Winning Colors in 1988.

"I told the prince, 'I owe you a Derby after last year,'" Baffert said. "... The prince kept saying, 'Pinch me, Pinch me. Is this really happening?'"

Proud Citizen was followed by Perfect Drift and Medaglia d'Oro, all of whom broke behind the winner and never seriously challenged for the lead.



JOCKEY Victor Espinoza pumps his fist as War Emblem surges ahead to the wire in the 128th running of the Kentucky Derby.

Cordero bags archery crown

MARVIN Cordero of Holy Angel crushed Florante Matan, 104-79, in the Olympic round finals yesterday to bag the men's crown in the national archery championships at the UP-PSC range in Diliman, Quezon City.

Cordero surpassed the 160-point criteria for Olympic Round's 18 arrows set by the archery association for the Busan Asian Games thrice by scoring 161 in the 1/8 finals of the adult level and 161 and 164 in the 1/16 and 1/8 finals, respectively, of the overall event.

Christian Cubilla placed third by nosing out Arnold Rojas, 111-110.

Rojas also tallied 161 points while Cubilla's 111 topped the 110 criteria for 12 arrows.

Seventeen-year-old Earl Yap emerged as national champion in the compound division by beating Adam Jimenez, 106-103, in the finals.

Carlos Carag finished third by firing 116 points, in the process breaking Raul Arambulo's 112 RP mark for 12 arrows.

Winners in the different categories were Carag, compound adult; Gen. Jose Marlow Pedregosa, compound Master; Dr. Juan Nanagas, recurve Master; Bryan Carlo Figueroa, Fita; Bernard Yamson, Intermediate; Englemar Venus, boys' standard round overall and college level; Romualdo Cascayan, standard round high school level; and Gemmo Fernandez, cadet level.

Ana eyes revenge against Shark today

GAMES TODAY

(Pasig Sports Center)
4 p.m.—Ana vs Shark
6 p.m.—John-O vs Kutitap

ANA FREEZERS, talk of the town due to its surprising winning run, eyes revenge as it tackles Shark Energy Drink today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

Despite their unorthodox style of play, coach Rudy Mendoza's charges have been on a roll. Despite making 26 turnovers, the Freezer Kings repeated over the Kutitap Spariders, 74-68, last Friday at the Makati Coliseum.

The Ana-Shark game is set at 4 p.m., followed by the 6 p.m. clash between skidding John-O and Kutitap. Both Ana and Kutitap share third spot with 5-3 win-loss cards.

"My players are responding very well to the occasion. My guardian angel is at work," said Mendoza.

He also thanked son Paolo, starting point guard of Sta. Lucia Realty, and longtime confidante Peping Santos for their valuable inputs regarding Ana's plays.

Ana is deadly with its run and gun game and coach Leo Austria is expected to exploit Shark's height advantage to the limit in order to win.

Warren Ybanez is a doubtful starter with a dislocated shoulder, leaving the playmaking chores to pintsize Al Vergara. Big men Ryzal Castro, 6-foot-5 and 6-foot-7 Ervin Sotto will assert their supremacy in the shaded lane against the smaller Don Don Mendoza and Roland Pascual.

Paul Artadi, Ogie Gumatay, Ronald Tubid and James Laygo must also play with consistency in order to give Ana the edge in the backcourt.

Shark is riding high on the crest of a three-game winning streak.

Dennis Erosa

Karting 4th leg slated

KART 1 protégé Dado Peña and M7M Racing's Michelle Bumgarner aim to repeat their feats in their respective classes when the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series stages its fourth leg on May 11-12 at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

Peña, tagged as the next karting superstar, seeks to pull another upset over back-to-back winner Jeremy Marquez in the Intercon-A class of this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia and Coca-Cola Bottlers.

Peña posted the fastest laptime of 43.367 on the 19th lap for the surprise win. But he will have his hands full as runner-up Arvin Drueco of Edgesports-Castrol, Demvel's Tyson Sy and Mandy Borja are also out to stop him.

Bumgarner, on the other hand, seeks her third consecutive victory over older brother Mark and Mateo Gudicelli in the ZED KT Juniors division.

"The young karters are stepping up and they have been giving the veterans a tough fight. This makes the fourth leg even more exciting," said Carmona Circuit Philippines project director Lot M. Tan.

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Too good to be true

THE LOW-KEY George Chua, franchise owner of Batang Red Bull in the PBA, has a special place in my heart for being sincere, honest and thoroughly straightforward. More importantly, he values friendship. "Friendship comes first, business second," said Sir George, who celebrated his 48th birthday yesterday, May 5.

To illustrate: There is no upper-class snottiness in the way he treats people. Instead he possesses a pleasant demeanor, always speaking in measured tone, avoiding personal attacks in stressing his point. He is very conciliatory even to a fault. And he is also not a bad singer. As a matter of fact, he relaxes by singing his favorite Tagalog love songs along with his friends and business associates

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



at the plush Photokina penthouse at least once a week.

My longtime friend Gus Villanueva and I were introduced to him by our kumpadre, Nic Jorge of Milo BEST fame, way back in the mid-1990s when I was the president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association, a position I held for four consecutive terms. Through the years and, mainly because of Sir George's pas-

sion and love for sports, Red Bull has regularly sponsored many PSA undertakings, such as the weekly PSA Forum and annual PSA Awards Night, a gesture which started during my term and which have been extended up to now.

Sports has always been part of George Chua's life since his younger years. As a student, he played college football at Letran together with Red Bull team manager Tony Chua. A teenage son, Paul, is also very much involved in sports being a key player of Xavier School's multi-titled basketball team. As an employee, he rose from the ranks to become a top executive of Photokina Marketing Corp., a company also known for its corporate commitment to various sports like boxing, golf and billiards.

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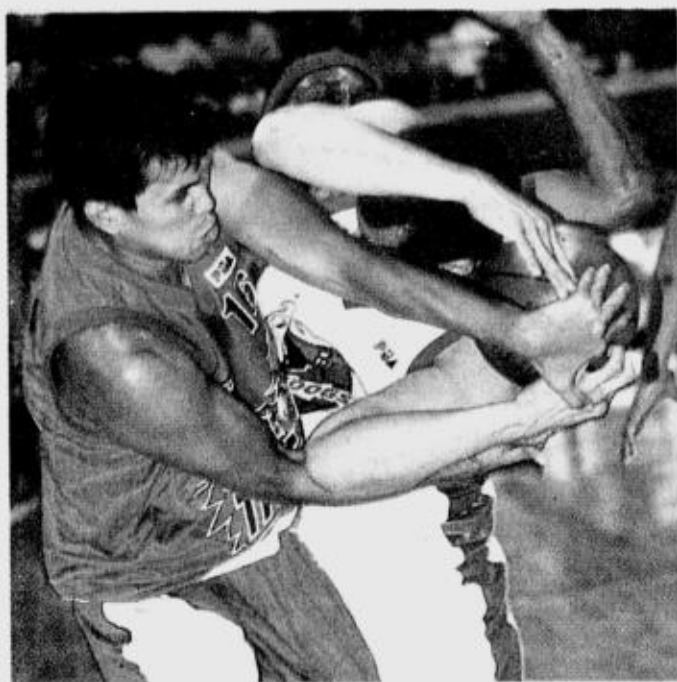
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SPORTS

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SUPERLOTTO 6/49

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COCA-COLA'S Estong Ballesteros (left) and teammate Roselle Ellis (partly hidden) battle Purefoods' Alvin Patrimonio for ball possession. AUGUST DELACRUZ

Coca-Cola stays alive; SMB seizes 2-1 lead

By June Navarro

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
6 p.m.—San Miguel vs Alaska
7 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coca-Cola

ACE playmaker Johnny Abarrientos and Ron Hale provided the spark as the Coca-Cola Tigers beat the Purefoods

Hotdogs, 77-72, last night to stay alive in the semifinals of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Their efforts, backstopped by the defensive expertise of Freddie Abuda, Estong Ballesteros and Roselle Ellis, were enough to eclipse the exploits of Purefoods import Derrick Brown, who again exploded in the

final quarter.

Brown scored 11 of his team-high 23 markers at that point but the Tigers contained the rest of the Hotdogs as they closed in at 1-2 in their best-of-five semifinal series.

In the second game, San Miguel Beer subdued Alaska, 68-61, to erect a 2-1 lead in their separate semis duel.

Brown, who averaged 26 points a game in the semifinals, shone in the last quarter during the Hotdogs' twin victories in Games 1 and 2.

With the victory, the Tigers are on track to become the third team in PBA history to come back from a 0-2 deficit in a best-of-five series and win.

Crispa did the trick against Toyota in the 1975 Third Conference, while Purefoods accomplished the task in the Third Conference of the 1990 season against Alaska.

Both were achieved in a PBA Finals series and were engineered by the league's winningest coach, Baby Dalupan.

Reyes and his Tigers seemed headed toward that direction at the start of the second half as they zoomed to a 59-40 lead after Ato Morano hit a booming triple with barely two minutes left in the third.

Brown then buckled down to work, scoring five straight points that ignited a 12-2 run in the fourth period to trim the huge gap, 61-56, with six minutes remaining.

But Hale, Abarrientos and Ellis were there to plug the loopholes as they countered with another offensive attack.

Scores:

COCA COLA 77—Hale 27, Abarrientos 17, Ellis 14, Ballesteros, 7, Abuda, 6, Morano 3, Briones 3, Bolado 0

PUREFOODS 72—Brown 23, Patrimonio 14, Price 9, Yee 7, Yap 7, Evangelista 5, Raymundo 4, Magsanoc 3, Balingit, 0 Guerrero 0

Quarters: 16-14, 38-31, 59-44, 77-72.



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PLDT TXT 135

Volunteers zap Stars, near semis

By Roy Luarda

GAME WEDNESDAY (Lipa Cultural Center)
6 p.m.—Cebu vs Batangas

LIPA CITY—Olongapo rode on the hot hands of Henry Fernandez to down Pampanga, 106-89 yesterday and boosted its semifinals bid in the MBA First Conference at the Lipa Cultural Center here.

Fernandez knocked in 16 of his game-high 27 points in the last 14 minutes as the Volunteers thwarted the Stars' last rally en route to their sixth win in eight starts that strengthened their grip of the lead in the Northern Conference.

The volunteers thus asserted their mastery of the Stars, whom they also beat 94-75 in their first meeting last April 21.

For a while, however, the Volunteers appeared ready to crumble as the Stars managed to come to within three points twice, the last at 66-63.

Fernandez knocked in two of his eight triples in an 8-1 blitz, however, to bail the Volunteers out of trouble at 74-63, late in the third quarter.

Inside bangers Jeffrey Flowers and Allen Patrimonio then joined hands with Fernandez to seal the Stars' eight defeat in nine games, 104-83, less than two minutes ago.

The Volunteers of Coach Junel Baculi are just a win shy of claiming a semifinal seat and have two games to go in the elimination round.

Scores:

OLONGAPO 106—Fernandez 27, Flowers 17, Encarnacion 17, Patrimonio 11, Robinson 8, Dualan 8, Cardel 5, Tan 4, Gonzales 2

PAMPANGA 89—Bansil 13, Payne 13, Santos 13, Dela Rosa 10, Majla 9, Liangco 8, Guinto 6, Ignacio 6, Melencio 5, Liangco 3, Cocjin 3, Gascon 3, Garcia 0

Quarters: 27-21, 53-44, 77-66, 106-89.

QC bet named Mr. Philippines

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—A fitness instructor from Quezon City bagged the title "Mr. Philippines 2002" during the national bodybuilding finals at the Benguet State University here on Saturday.

Jay Catli, 28, won over 73 rivals from Manila, Cebu, Davao and Iloilo to become one of the country's hopes for a medal in bodybuilding at the Asian Games in Busan, South Korea in September.

Catli first topped the middleweight class (81-85 kilograms) then defeated seven other division winners with his symmetry and mastery of execution of the seven mandatory poses.

Cristina Laureta, also of Quezon City, was crowned "Ms. Philippines 2002" for topping the women's class. **Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau**

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See leaflets for more Ring Tone selections!

Marikina named country's most responsive LGU

/A26



MARIKINA Mayor Marides Fernando
JOAN BONDOC

Bel-Air residents vs Mapua campus

/A26

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What Drives You **CALTEX**

Bel-Air vs Mapua

By Christian V. Esguerra

RESIDENTS of Bel-Air Village in Makati City yesterday slammed the city government for allowing the construction of a Mapua Institute of Technology campus in a congested residential and commercial area supposedly without conducting public consultations.

Rosalinda Francisco yesterday said she and other residents of Bel-Air Village II felt cheated when barangay officials and Mapua representatives reached an agreement amid concerns that the campus might further congest traffic in the busy and narrow streets of Reposo and Jupiter.

The agreement supposedly had the blessing of the Makati government.

"They say it's a done deal, but how about the heavy traffic and inconvenience that the school will

bring us?" Francisco said. "They're supposed to serve and defend us, not Mapua."

There are already two schools in Bel-Air: Colegio de Santa Rosa and the International School. Traffic is relatively heavy in the area during school days when vehicles fetching students are often parked two-deep on the streets.

After a meeting with Mapua officials and the Bel-Air Village Association in August 2001, residents did not hear about the proposed campus until early this year, according to Francisco.

The site of the campus is on a block that a branch of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. used to occupy, between Metropolitan and Gil Puyat avenues.

In a letter to barangay captain Constancia Lichauco, Santiago asked for clarification on the project since "(Mapua) represen-

tatives could not fully answer to the satisfaction of the residents the traffic easement schemes that they (were) proposing to undertake."

The projected traffic problem will also affect residents of the three other Bel-Air subdivisions and the nearby villages of Rizal, Santiago, San Miguel, and San Antonio, she said.

"My concern is that the area (will) become a traffic bottleneck," said Rizal resident Manuel Rivera. "There really should have been public consultations."

Lichauco said there were subsequent meetings between barangay and school officials to discuss the traffic concern.

In a separate letter, Mapua president Reynaldo Vea said the school had sought the help of the National Center for Transportation Students "to conduct a traffic

impact assessment study on the proposed transfer of our School of Information Technology to the Makati campus."

The study focused on the possible build-up of traffic on the intersections of Nicanor Garcia and Jupiter streets and Gil Puyat and Jupiter.

Among the proposals were the construction of a two-lane road above a creek that will bridge Gil Puyat and Metropolitan avenues, and the deployment of traffic personnel in the area.

Lichauco said it was also explained during a meeting that the proposed campus was allowed by the city's zoning ordinance.

But the residents should have been properly informed and consulted about the project, she said. "This is not about a mere zoning ordinance. This is about the public interest and the public good."

GMA can lend RP boxing a winning punch

THERE'S this message from someone who obviously did not take a single unit on Dr. Jose Rizal in college. It's actually a funny quiz: Noli Me Tangere is Touch Me Not in English, Huwag Mo Akong Salingin in Filipino. But how do they call Rizal's noble masterpiece in Chinese?

Ready?

No Chang Seng.

Last week's outstanding text message was, of course, anything but funny.

It came from our correspondent in Tarlac, Tonette Orejas.

It read: Dante Buscayno has raised P5,000 for Meruel. How do we get in touch with his family?

Meruel was Meruel Sayas, the luckless boxer who died on April 24 hours after suffering a brutal knockout loss somewhere in Tarlac.

That was a heartwarming gesture from Kumander Dante, once the most feared rebel in Central Luzon.

On Saturday, Nick Giongco of Today, after providing proper directions for Kumander Dante, reported that former stable mates of Sonny Boco were being lined up to headline a promotion meant to raise funds for the injured boxer.

It was not a simple bump Boco had suffered. Last heard of, Boco was still confined in a provincial government hospital in Thailand nearly a month after lapsing into a coma following a knockout defeat in Chantaburi, some 300 kilometers from Bangkok.

Unlike Sayas, Boco survived the ring savagery and is, in fact, on the road to recovery.

Games and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva, showing deep concern, said he was planning to send GAB medical division head Dr. Nasser Cruz to fetch Boco in Thailand this week.

So what do Dante Buscayno and Eduardo Villanueva have in common?

Simple. They both care for the sport of boxing and the great guys who try to make a living with their deadly fists. Just like them, a lot of people out there would go out of their way to lessen the deadly elements in the boxing ring.

Pardon my saying it, but Kumander Dante could score a winner if he could, say, convince Malacañang to set up an agency to strictly and sincerely govern the sport of boxing in the Philippines.

Hope the GAB chief does not get slighted. But the GAB, at best, is nothing more than a licensing agency as far as Philippine boxing is concerned.

It's like this. Other Asian boxing powers, like Thailand and South Korea, have powerful boxing commissions to govern the sport.

Here at home, what we have

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad



is the GAB boxing division which, despite the good intentions of people running it, functions as nothing more than a lame duck licensing arm.

This boxing division assigns officials in local promotions, screens and approves fighters for international assignments.

This body definitely cares for the sport and its practitioners. But its functions are very, very limited. It is, in short, powerless unlike the boxing commissions in countries like Thailand, Japan and South Korea.

Anyway, time and again, we had heard plans and proposals to establish a boxing commission in the country.

Concerned legislators like Ramon Revilla and Raul Daza had made known their intentions to sponsor the creation of the badly needed commission.

Failure of the plan to take off the ground could be blamed on a myriad of factors, topped by messy politicking.

But listen, please. The Games and Amusements Board can create what could amount to a boxing commission without having to beg both houses of Congress for support and approval.

This can be done by creating a boxing authority with the power and responsibilities to guide, govern and supervise boxing in the country. If the solution sounds simple, it's for the simple fact that it has been waiting to be tapped all these years.

There's no need for legislation. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can throw a championship punch with a stroke of her pen. All she needs is order the creation of such a body.

Of course, the proposed Professional Boxing Authority of the Philippines needs to be manned by selected people. People like Tony Aldeguez, Laura Elorde, even Dante Buscayno, who have the welfare of boxing and the fighters in their hearts.

Repeat: The President could go for it and win the championship if she opts for the creation of an effective and responsible governing body for Philippine boxing.

Not only to protect boxers from undue harm.

You see, Philippine boxing is often in trouble because the Games and Amusements Board is nothing more than a timid, aimless counter puncher.

The President can/must provide the great difference.

Marikina named most responsive LGU

By Nelson F. Flores

IN SEARCH of the most responsive local government unit in the country, the Police Center of the Asian Institute of Management and the Department of Trade and Industry have agreed that they found it in Marikina City.

The AIM and the DTI declared Marikina the most responsive local government unit in the country at the conclusion

of their annual search, called Philippine Cities Competitive Ranking.

Marikina City ranked third overall as the most competitive metropolitan city nationwide next to the cities of Davao and Cebu, and as the No. 1 city in the National Capital Region.

Marikina Mayor Ma. Lourdes Fernando said the ranking that the AIM-DTI made was based on the percentage of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) in the

local government unit revenue, speed of securing business permits, transparency, security in the administration of justice, imposition of reasonable taxes, responsiveness to public opinion, environmental programs, implementation of development programs and reasonable and flexible land use.

Fernando said the responsiveness of an LGU is one of the seven "drivers" in the search. The others are the cost of doing business, dy-

namism of the local economy, linkages and accessibility, quality of human resources, infrastructure, and quality of life.

The search aims to rank the economic competitiveness of the different urban centers of the country and to measure the effectiveness of these cities in providing an environment conducive to business and industry.

The search also aims to quantify the ability of the cities to promote a better standard of living for residents.

Prosecutors to decide on raps vs Strawberry boyfriend

By Christian V. Esguerra

LAS PIÑAS prosecutors will issue tomorrow a resolution on the attempted murder charges filed by a family against the boyfriend of former child star Strawberry in connection with her killing last year.

Fiscal Jaime Santiago, officer in charge of the city prosecutor's office, said his office would decide if it would file attempted murder charges against the boyfriend, June Mark Doromal, and his four security

aides.

Last December, businessman Reynaldo Picar sued Doromal and his men for allegedly firing at him and his sons during an armed confrontation that resulted in the killing of Strawberry, whose real name is Anouk Baldo.

Santiago on Friday admitted that it might take long before the prosecutors could release their findings on the murder charges filed against the Picars and a family friend for allegedly killing the former child actress.

Last month, the Picars asked the prosecutors to inhibit themselves from the case for supposedly showing bias when the prosecutors allowed a reinvestigation of the shooting, according to Santiago.

He said the family wanted his office to elevate the criminal case against Doromal to a regional trial court without waiting for the results of a separate police investigation conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

It was the CIDG that recommended the filing of murder charges

against the Picars, although Las Piñas investigators said evidence pointed to Doromal and his men as those who could have killed Strawberry.

Santiago said a panel of prosecutors decided to consolidate the preliminary investigations of the attempted murder charge against Doromal and the murder complaint against the Picars since both of them pertain to the same shooting incident.

"For us, it was the logical thing to do since we're talking of the same case," Santiago said.

Tonguing incident leads to killing

A YOUNG man was stabbed to death by a neighbor whom he had slapped for sticking out his tongue at him.

Raffy Ramos, 18, of Paco, Manila, was watching a volleyball game late Saturday night when his neighbor Rommel Cerion, 18, stabbed him to death, said Detective Raul Olavario of the Western Police District homicide section.

Police said that on Friday, Cerion stuck out his tongue at Ramos after he saw the latter staring at Cerion's girlfriend. Ramos and Cerion argued, until Ramos slapped Cerion, police said.

Bystanders pacified them before they came to blows, but Cerion apparently could not forget the slap, police said. The following day, he approached Ramos at the volleyball game and stabbed him repeatedly, police said.

Ramos fell while Cerion escaped with the knife, witnesses told police. Police were still hunting down Cerion. **Philip T. Tubesa, with Edson Tando**



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MEE-159	No. 8 Dona Alicia St., INA Executive Homes I, Levittown Estate Subd., Brgy. Don Bosco, Parañaque City	190 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 144520) with buildings and improvements.	P 1,202,500.00
LDA-106	No. 13 Ubas St., Doña Josefa Subd., Brgy. Alimaza, Las Piñas City	240 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 65213) with building and improvements.	P 1,174,500.00
LRD-121-A	Corner Chestnut and Cherry Sts., Rainbow Village 5 Phase II, Bagumbong, Caloocan City	295 m ² residential lot (TCT No. C-342819)	P 664,000.00
LTJ-102	Bo. San Roque, Tangos, Navotas	436 m ² interior residential lot (TCT No. 262159)	P 622,000.00
LJG-149	Lot 1 Blk. 18 cgr. Lots 13 & 19, Golden Acres Subd., Talon Singko, Las Piñas City	236 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 75082)	P 499,000.00
MEE-145	Corner of Road Lot 11 & 27, Congressional Model Subd., Camarin, Caloocan City	228 m ² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 334416)	P 405,000.00
LTJ-103	Bo. San Roque, Tangos, Navotas	242 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 262158) with building and improvements.	P 386,000.00
Bulacan			
LTJ-67	1729 Villanca Homes, Bo. Lolomboy, Bocaue	257 m ² residential lot (TCT No. T-324365) with building and improvements.	P 1,553,200.00
LJG-134	Bancal Ext., Bancal, Meycauayan	152 m ² residential lot (TCT No. T-363853) with building and improvements.	P 596,800.00
VPI-31	G.L. Jaena St., Cityland, Green Breeze Village I, Pulang Buhangin, Sta. Maria	200 m ² residential lot (TCT No. T-295185 M)	P 165,000.00
Cavite			
MG-165	Bo. Talon, Amadeo	2,322 m ² unutilized agro-residential lot (TD No. 97-12589) with building.	P 1,004,000.00
LRD-121-B	Corner Scout and Sicily Sts., Pallas Athena Executive Subd., Phase II, Anabu, Imus	180 m ² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-917917)	P 567,000.00
LRD-121-C	Sicily St., Pallas Athena Executive Subd., Phase II, Anabu, Imus	150 m ² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-917918)	P 432,000.00
Laguna			
LJG-104	Camantigue St., Elvinda Village, Phase IV, San Vicente, San Pedro	192 m ² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-457146)	P 507,000.00
Quezon			
LJG-150	Brgy. Sampaloc I, Saniaya	10,000 m ² agricultural lot (TCT No. T-367895)	P 680,000.00
Rizal			
MMC-156	Bo. San Isidro, Antipolo City	2,537 m ² adjoining two (2) parcels interior vacant farm lots (TCT Nos. 373101 & 373102)	P 1,267,800.00
VJC-97	Deerwood St., Camden Ext., Saint Martin de Porres, Brookside Hills, Twin Peak, Brgy. Bulao, Antipolo City	210 m ² residential lot (TCT No. 385002) with building and improvement.	P 655,000.00
Zambales			
LJG-147	Bo. Sinabacan, Candelaria	174,439 m ² fishpond (TCT Nos. T-53917 to T-53921)	P 6,804,800.00

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MBL-167	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	1 unit Double Cab Pick-up, MAZDA	P 155,000.00
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(PDI - May 6, 2002)

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Bridge needs repair

THE MORE than 30,000 residents of the coastal town of Jala-Jala, Rizal are appealing to the Department of Public Works and Highways to immediately repair a bridge connecting their town and the nearby town of Pililia.

The DPWH has not repaired the Kisaw Bridge, in Barangay Kisaw, Pililia, despite a formal request by the Jala-Jala municipal government. The bridge, five meters wide and three meters long, connects Jala-Jala to the rest of Rizal province.

Jala-Jala police said the bridge was damaged last month and vehicles are forced to make a four-kilometer detour over rough terrain.

SPO1 Eduardo Cuevas of the Jala-Jala police said the damaged bridge is causing a lot of inconvenience and additional expenses to Jala-Jala residents, especially traders.

Nelson F. Flores

Assunta so busy she has to turn down some projects

ASSUNTA de Rossi denies any relationship with **Jay Manalo**, her costar in the award-winning **Joel Lamangan** film, "Hubog."

She says Jay probably assumes they have a relationship after doing the movie, but insists they don't even talk regularly. "So how can you say that I'm his girlfriend?"

After ending her romance with cager **Romel Adducul**, Assunta says she is not ready to fall in love again. "I don't want to be unfair to my boyfriend," she explains. "With my schedule, it's impossible to maintain a relationship. I shoot for a movie or tape for a TV show almost every day. I don't even have time to date."

Assunta is perhaps the busiest young actress in show biz today. She is a mainstay of three TV shows on GMA 7—the sitcom "Beh Bote Nga," the gag show "Bubble Gang" and the new soap, "Hawak Ko ang Langit."

Her manager, **Manny Valera**, was begging Assunta to give up "Bubble Gang," where she is part of the wacky group of

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

Ogie Alcasid, Michael V. and Rufa Mae Quinto, among others. But Assunta refuses to leave the show.

"Bubble Gang" is very dear to me," she maintains. "I cannot just leave it. I asked to be a semi-regular because of my schedule, which means I'll be seen in the show twice a month. But I don't want to give it up no matter how busy I am. I enjoy doing it."

This early, she already has an offer to star in a Metro Manila Film Festival entry for Regal Films, to be directed by **Joel Lamangan**.

"I've turned down a number of film offers because my schedule will no longer allow them," Assunta says. "I can only do three to four films in a year because I still do TV."

In "Kilabot at Kembot," she plays a stripper. It marks her first team-up with **Bong Revilla Jr.**, who also returns to film production with his

newly revived Imus Productions.

Assunta recalls she had to shoot the dance sequences for 14 hours, from 2 a.m. to 4 p.m. the next day at La Legende Club.

"I had a terrible headache after the shooting," Assunta shares. "I slept but when I woke up, I couldn't stand. The dance was harder than the love scenes because I had to

learn choreographed dance routines."

Assunta figures in sizzling love scenes with **Bong Revilla**. She says she showed a breast in the movie, and she did not hesitate to do it.

New Quizon in show biz

MICHELLE Quizon is granddaughter of comedy king **Dolphy**, daughter of Dolphy's son **Edgar Quizon**. But Michelle is intent on proving that she can make it in show biz without relying on her famous relatives.

She plays her first movie role in "Kapalit," which stars **Jay Manalo**, **Alma Moreno** and **Victor Neri**.

Michelle, 22, is a graduate of the College of Holy Spirit and is an international flight stewardess of Northwest Airlines. She is joining her granddad Dolphy and her uncles **Eric**, **Ronnie**, **Jeffrey** and **Vandolph** in show biz.

After her drama debut, Michelle wants to do comic, action and offbeat roles. How about sexy roles?

"Lolo won't allow it,"

she says.

"Kapalit," directed by **Mel Chionglo**, is the initial offering of Jaggs Entertainment. The new film outfit was formed by director **Joel Lamangan** with friends from Cavite as partners.

Adriatico show moved

THE CONCERT of **Dale Adriatico** has been moved to Thursday, May 23, 9 p.m., at the Casino Filipino Alegria Lounge (Pavilion).

"Dale Adriatico: In Concert at the Alegria" will also feature power-packed performer **Dessa**. Part of the proceeds of the concert will go to the Maria Scholarship Program of the Philippine High School for the Arts.

The show is presented by Pagcor Entertainment in cooperation with DCA Entrepreneurs and Theater Concepts and 105.1 Crossover. Tickets to the concert (P500, P1,000 and P1,500) are available at all National Bookstore Ticketworld outlets and at Tower Records Makati and Alabang.

For inquiries and reservations, call 0917-7910385 or 0917-3985283.



QUIZON. Brief but memorable role.



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Bedrock rocks this May

BEDROCK Bar and Grill Restaurant in Malate this May treats party lovers to a mixture of sounds guaranteed to cap the summer vacation's last month with a blast.

Monday nights have **Altered and SoundMinds** doing R&B, retro pop, techno and Top 40s. New Level and Nexxus take center stage on Tuesdays with music from the '70s, '80s and '90s, disco, R&B and Top 40s, as well as rock, pop and soul hits.

X2C and Heat of the Night perform Wednesdays, dishing out more retro, pop, Top 40s and R&B. Rest of the Boys (R.O.B.) and Big Nite Out (BNO) provide for non-stop dancing Thursday nights.

Weekend raving starts with **Skin and eXtra Ordinary People (XOP)** on Fridays with alternative and rock tunes, plus acid jazz, disco and Top 40s. New band Slide and party starter **Part-E** join **Bedrock-ers** on Saturdays. Slide serves up new wave, pop, alternative and classic rock, while **Part-E** sustains the party mood with pop and Top 40s.

The Music Making Company and Fastrack jazz up Sundays with pop, jazz and R&B and more retro tunes until dawn.

Bedrock Bar and Grill Restaurant is at 1782 M. Adriatico Street, Malate, Manila. It is open from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m. Sunday to Thursday, and 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

For reservations, call 522-7279 to 80.

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- 3 SPIDERMAN
- 4 SCORPION KING

Lianas Cinema

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 BUKANG BIBIG
- 3 KALARO
- 4 VIDEOKE KING

Lianas MovieCity

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 VIDEOKE KING
- 3 HART'S WAR
- 4 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
- 5 SCORPION KING

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 VIDEOKE KING
- 3 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Olivarez Los Baños

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 VIDEOKE KING
- 3 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Olivarez Tagaytay

- 1 HART'S WAR
- 2 SCORPION KING
- 3 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

Morales Cinema

- 1 VIDEOKE KING

Cabuyao

- 1 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
- 2 SPIDERMAN

Fourstep

- 1

Emperor

- 1 SPIDERMAN
- 2 VIDEOKE KING
- 3 SPIDERMAN

Fiesta World Mall

- 1 SCORPION KING
- 2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
- 3 HART'S WAR
- 4 VIDEOKE KING

Jade Cinema

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- 2 DEEP END
- 3 SPIDERMAN
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- 2 SPIDERMAN
- 3 SCORPION KING
- 4 RETURN TO NEVERLAND
- 5 SPIDERMAN
- 6 VIDEOKE KING
- 7 VIDEOKE KING
- 8 BLADE 2

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- 2 SPIDERMAN
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- 4 SCORPION KING
- 5 VIDEOKE KING
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Focus on Asian films

FOR many years, the Indian film industry felt rather apologetic about its "Bollywood" way of making movies. True, India produces more films (700 plus!) than any other country in the world, but their "weird" cinematic convention, like leads suddenly breaking out into song (and dance) at the most seemingly inappropriate times, were deemed embarrassing, especially by Indian film talents who were trained in the west.

Well, that huge case of inferiority complex is no longer weighing the industry down. Somewhere along the line, "weird" has been transformed into "unique," and all of a sudden, "sudden" song-and-dance interludes are now described as "exhilaratingly idiosyncratic" and "very true to Indian cinematic culture!"

This upbeat reversal has been boosted by the success of Indian movies like "Lagaan" in the west. And, for the first time, this year's Cannes Film Festival will screen a mainstream Bollywood production, "Devdas" in its non-competitive section.

The film is based on a popular novel,

and is about the son of a wealthy landlord, a beautiful neighbor who marries somebody else, and a courtesan who falls for the depressed young man. The three-hour film has nine musical numbers.

Another Asian film project that is getting a lot of attention is the movie on the life of Sun Yat-sen, China's revolutionary leader, that Chinese and Malaysian filmmakers plan to shoot in Malaysia this year. The movie focuses on the time in Sun's life that he spent in Penang, plotting the Canton uprising of 1911.

New season

THE NEW season of the hit sitcom, "Sex and the City," is premiering on HBO across Asia at 10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 14. It will be telecast every Tuesday for the next 15 weeks.

What's new this season? Executive producer Michael Patrick King obliges with this overview and sneak preview: "Season One was like the first meeting, the first date. Character introductions were made, relationships were initiated, and the good outweighed the bad."

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

"Then came Season Two, and it was like the early dating period. You started to know the girls, learned about their past relationships, and saw their flaws—and yet, you decided to keep dating."

"Season Three was the beginning of the real relationship. Everything became more of a challenge. The surface glitz wore off and you saw some of the girls' unflattering aspects underneath. You saw how they made mistakes, but you understood—and forgave. You were in love."

"Now comes Season Four, and it's deeper, more challenging, more emo-

tional and comforting. Everything has become more mature."

Some hints of TV plots to come: One of the leading ladies may get pregnant this season. Aidan, Carrie's too-good-to-be-true boyfriend, will make a reappearance. Charlotte learns to stand up for herself and starts like anew with Trey, the husband from whom she was separated last year.

The new season of "Sex and the City" is about second chances. That's a more mature attitude that we hope will rub off on some of the hit show's avid fans.

Ynez holds special show

YNEZ Veneracion will highlight her singing expertise in a special show, "funnysexycool," 9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8 at Ratsky's Morato.

The show is produced by Airtime Entertainment, with Baby Pacheco as president.

Ynez will sing her two hit singles—"Bakit Ikaw pa Rin" and "Nakaw na Pag-Ibig"—from her self-titled album under Dyna Music.

In the movies, Ynez just wrapped up work on "Nine Mornings" under Star Cinema, with Piolo Pascual and Donita Rose. She plays Piolo's other girlfriend.

Joining Ynez in "funnysexycool" are two of the most promising artists in the local scene popular and talented stand-up comedian Vice and all-male band Boyztown.

Boyztown has performed in top bars like Ratsky's Malate, Ratsky's Cebu, Ratsky's Morato, 8th Day, Southern Bulls, Pad's Point Baguio, etc. They are now busy recording for their debut album to be released soon under Star Records.

Boyztown is composed of four talented and good-looking singers namely Michael Pamular, John Paul Dizon, P.M. Belen and Noel Orozco.

"funnysexycool" is a co-production venture of DMV and Airtime Entertainment.

For inquiries, call 374-1361/ 415-0373/ 546-7500 or cell number 0917-4532427.



SEXY star Ynez Veneracion with all-male band Boyztown.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	VIDEOKE KING
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SCORPION KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ROLLERBALL
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BUKANG BIBIG
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TIKIM / GIRLS
ODEON	VIDEOKE KING
ODEON-2	SCORPION KING
ROBEN	BUKANG BIBIG
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	BEHIND ENEMY LINES / SUPREME SUNDRIES

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	BUKANG BIBIG
REMAR	VIDEOKE KING
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	VIDEOKE KING
B	BUKANG BIBIG
C	SCORPION KING

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CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-2	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-3	MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	E.T.
CINEMA-6	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-7	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-8	S2PID LUV
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ROLLERBALL
CINEMA-12	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
CINEMA-14	I AM SAM
CINEMA-15	VIDEOKE KING

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-3	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-4	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-5	HELP! I'M A FISH
CINEMA-6	SPIDERMAN

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

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SPIDERMAN - GP 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40	HELP! I'M A FISH! - GP 12:00, 1:50, 3:45, 5:40, 7:35, 9:30	SPIDERMAN - GP 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

New hair style, new discoveries and old favorites

I CHANGED my hair style and hair color last week.

Salon de Manila proprietress **Pin Antonio**, who recently won as Best in Asia in a Singapore haircut and color competition, did the honors in her new Tomas Morato branch. Would you believe I was at her salon for seven hours, from 5 p.m. until a little past midnight?

The process took extremely long because

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino



my hair had to be stripped of the semi-permanent black hair dye that I'd applied a month ago. Then we had a caramel brown all-over hair color. This was shampooed off after nearly 40

minutes. Then Pin gave me a modern bob, not rounded but with choppy, pointed edges.

After my haircut, highlights that were almost blonde and burgundy-reddish were applied in really tiny sections using tinfoil. The application and tinfoil process took almost an hour and a half. This was again shampooed off, then a deep moisturizing treatment was applied to restore some life to my chemically abused hair, and I went under the steamer for 20 minutes. This was rinsed off after a 10-minute scalp cooling-down session.

My hair was dried and Pin gave it a last, finishing and fine-tuning cut. I'm very happy with the result and would gladly go through the seven hours all over again, because the color really gives life to my features.

Little Asia

By 9 p.m., I was starved. I decided to order some take-out from Little Asia just across the street. I tried their Vietnamese spring rolls and their house specialty, crispy friend chicken. The grandfather of the restaurant owners had handed down to them the chicken recipe.

The spring rolls were crunchy and generously filled and the dipping sauce was authentically flavored. But it was the fried chicken that really impressed me. It was juicy on the inside, very white and plump, and yet the skin was unbelievably crispy.

The following night I brought **Josh** to Little Asia. He loved the crab meat and corn soup as well as the fried chicken and the breaded pork chop with Mandarin orange sauce. Josh had three glasses of the delicious iced tea, and so he had a caffeine rush after the meal.

This restaurant is a great place to bring the whole family because it has all kinds of Asian cuisine and every member will find a dish that he or she likes.

Colasa's

Most nights that I tape "Game Ka Na Ba," we have food bought during dinner break. We are currently addicted to the barbecue from Colasa's on Timog Avenue.

This restaurant, which originated in Davao, has the best chicken barbecue I've ever tasted. The chicken is said to be "native" and is flown in from Davao. I learned about this one night when our dinner was delayed because the chicken had just arrived from the domestic airport.

I like both the chicken breast with the wing as well as the thigh and drumstick. The skin gets a bit crisped, but the meat stays tender. The barbecue sticks are fascinating because they are big, almost spear-like!

We've also tried their pork barbecue and *inihaw na pusit*. Their "secret" marinade is to die for and is not oily or overpowering.

Red Crab

Red Crab on Tomas Morato remains a favorite, despite my allergy to shrimps, prawns, lobsters and crabs. Whenever I want to indulge, I just make sure to take an antihistamine tablet before eating.

We all agree that their Szechuan crabs are the most deliciously flavored. I prefer the male crab because the female with all the *alige* is just way too "sinful."

The sweet sauce, with the right amount of spicy bite, is excellent with steamed rice. We kid ourselves that we aren't being too indulgent since it's seafood anyway.

Since it opened middle of last year, Red Crab has managed to stay very consistent with the quality of its food. You get excellent value for money because the service is reliable and efficient and the crab is always fresh, almost like it's just been harvested.

Wanted: Actors for Gantimpala

BULWAGANG Gantimpala is holding auditions for its 25th season which will include the plays "Kanser," "El Fili," "Florante at Laura" and "Ibong Adarna."

The auditions will be held on May 17 and 18, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Gantimpala Theater studio, 8005-F Tanguile St. corner Kamagong, San Antonio Village, Makati City, telephone numbers 895-8314, 895-4925 and (0918)921-2866.

Needed are male and female actors 15 to 25 years old, with experience in theater acting, dancing and singing. They must bring bio-data and 2"x2" photo.

Bulwagan celebrates its 25th year with a show called "A Silver Harvest" at the CCP Main Theater on July 26. The show will highlight award-winning Gantimpala plays such as "Katipunan," "Bombita," "Hiblang Abo," "Tiktupaklong," and "Bongbong at Kris."

Bulwagan will also pay tribute to the late Rene Requiestas and Ray Ventura, who first made their names in Bulwagan Gantimpala plays.

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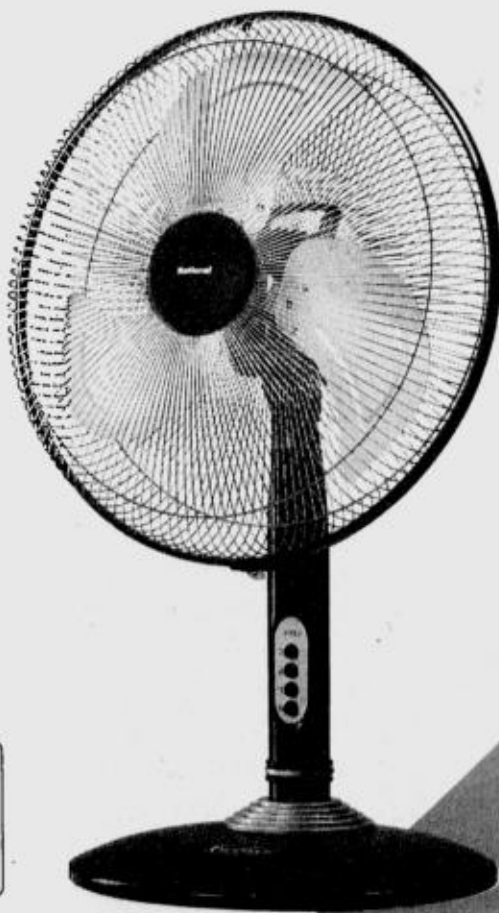
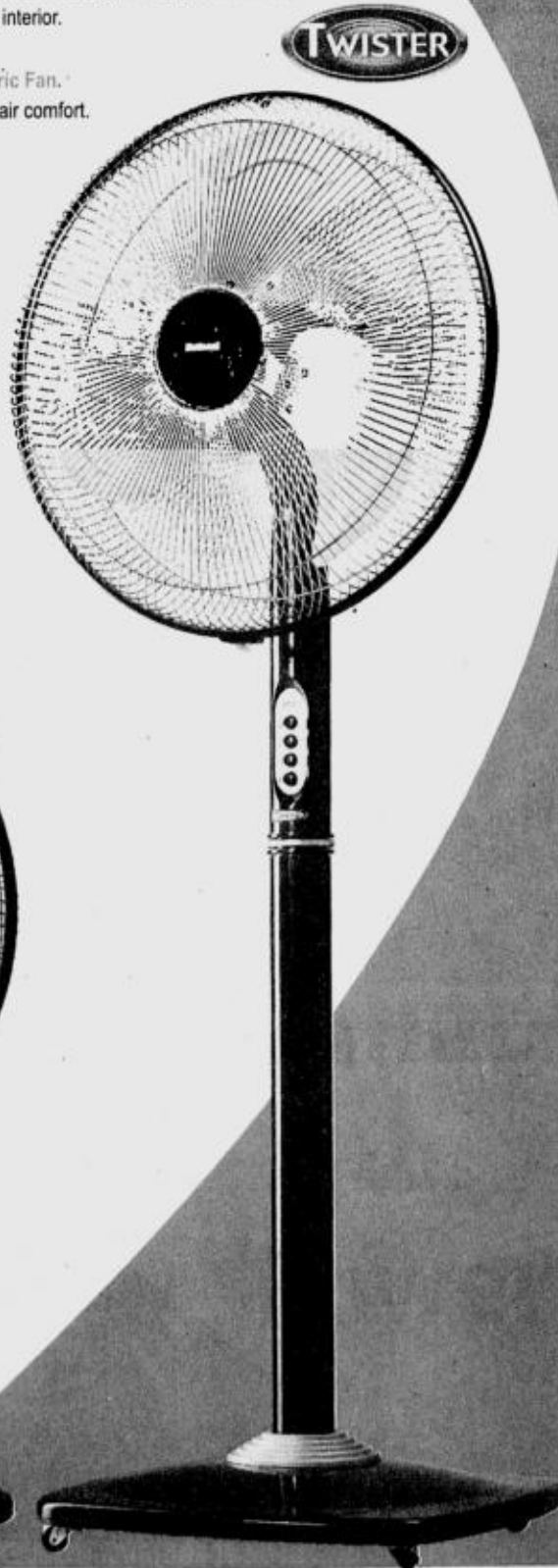
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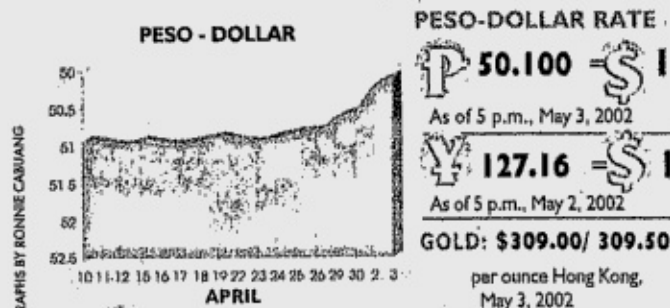
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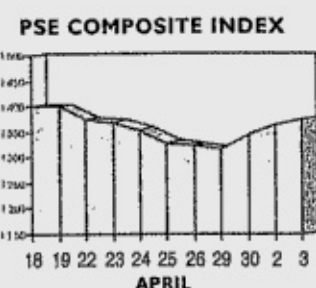
CURRENCIES



STOCK MARKET Profit-taking seen

AFTER the relief provided by the peaceful May 1 Labor Day celebration and talks about the possible return of a big US pension fund to the local stock market, investors are expected to look in profits this week and await good bargains.

This developed as investors discounted poor first-quarter earnings and gobbled up stocks whose prices have fallen to attractive levels late last week, allowing the main-share Philippine Stock



(See stock market report on Page B6)
PROFIT-TAKING/ B6

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S outstanding debt rose by another 11.4 percent in February to P2.437 trillion from P2.188 trillion a year ago as lower interest rates encouraged the government to borrow aggressively from the local and foreign markets.

On a month-on-month basis, however, the government's debt stock grew by only P10.54 billion or by 0.4 percent from P2.427 trillion in January, documents from the Bureau of Treasury showed.

Aside from increased borrow-

ings, particularly from the local market, the debt stock was partly bloated by the slightly weaker peso in February compared to a year ago as well as a month ago.

The government had used a foreign exchange average of P51.35 to a dollar in computing its obligations in February compared to an average of P48.25 in February 2001 and P51.20 last January.

Of the total government debt stock in February, the borrowings from the local market went up by 12.3 percent to P1.273 trillion against P1.134 trillion a year ago but was up only by 0.8 percent from P1.263 trillion in January.

The Treasury noted that its domestic borrowings through the

issuance of treasury bills and bonds were simply recurring. The size of the treasury bills auctioned was even reduced slightly after the sale of one-year debt notes was suspended for a month.

A government official explained that the treasury bills and bonds issued only replaced those maturing on a regular basis of three months, six months, and one year.

Foreign loans went up by 10.5 percent in February or by P110 billion to P1.164 trillion from P1.054 trillion a year ago but higher by only 0.1 percent from P1.164 trillion the previous month.

The increase in foreign loans could be attributed to the \$750

million in new debts raised by the government in January, of which \$250 million was relent to National Power Corp. The central bank also raised an additional \$300 million from the Euro bond market in January.

The debt stock released by the Treasury included only the government's local and foreign borrowings and not the external liabilities of the private sector.

The outstanding debt stock in February did not include contingent debts of nearly P500 billion. These are borrowings that the government will assume when state agencies and private sector companies with sovereign-backed loans fail to pay their obligations.

Neda OKs P8.7-B motor vehicle inspection project

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority has approved the P8.66-billion motor vehicle inspection project, which aims to check smoke emission and road-worthiness of vehicles based on stricter standards.

The project, which will enhance road safety for both the riding public and pedestrians, was one of three major infrastructure projects worth a combined P11.8 billion approved by the Neda. The other

two were the enhancement of a road network in Mindanao and the provision of solar power systems to rural areas.

A Neda statement announced that its board, chaired by President Macapagal-Arroyo, approved the three new projects last week.

The motor vehicle inspection project will involve the construction of 208 inspection lanes, 69 of which will be located in Metro Manila. Each inspection lane will conduct tests on road-worthiness, including automated tests on

brakes, wheel alignment, headlight, speedometer, and suspension on top of separate tests on air emissions.

The inter-agency Investment Coordinating Committee, which screens projects for official development assistance from bilateral and multilateral lenders, earlier cited the economic benefits from such an inspection system.

Of the P8.66-billion total project cost, about P5.77 billion or 67 percent is the local cost component while the rest is the

foreign cost counterpart. The project will be implemented under a solicited build-own-operate scheme and funded through a combination of loan, equity and internal cash generation.

The second project is the P2.66-billion Mindanao Roads Implementation Project (Phase 1), which covers the Cotabato East Diversion Road, the Lake Lanao Circumferential Road, and the Basilan Circumferential Road. It involves the construction and

NEDA/ B3

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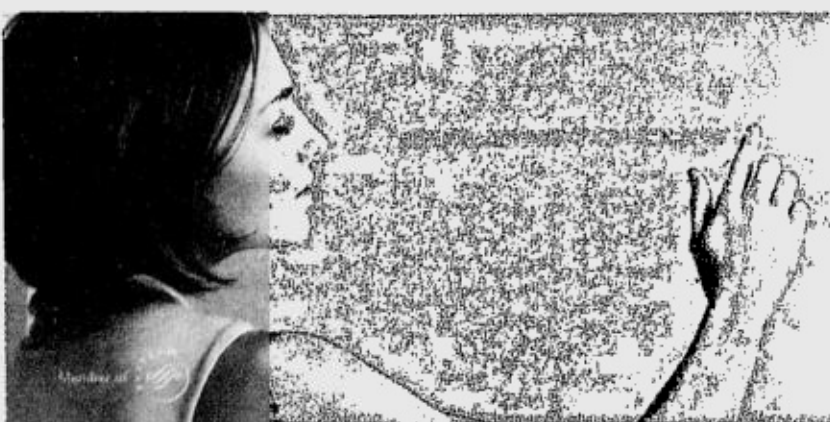
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Gov't to pursue plan to revise vehicle tax scheme

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said that despite the

strong opposition from some industry groups, the government would still submit to Congress be-

fore the scheduled recess on June 6 its proposed amendments to the motor vehicle taxation scheme.

The departments of finance, and of trade and industry are scheduled

to meet with the representatives from the automotive industry today.

The government would try to convince vehicle assemblers, particularly the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philip-

pines Inc. (Campi), to support the proposed amendments to automotive taxes, particularly the shift in the basis of excise taxation.

"Having heard all the points, it is our intention to proceed with finalizing the bill and submitting it to Congress," Camacho said.

The new bill would focus on shifting the basis of the motor vehicle taxation to the wholesale price from the current scheme of basing the tax on fuel type and engine displacement.

The amendments would also lift the exemption from excise taxes unduly given to vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or more, an incentive that was meant to benefit only the so-called Asian utility vehicles or those with a 60-percent local content.

"We will try to convince them on Monday that the amendments would be to the best interest of everyone," a finance official said.

Based on the government proposal, AUVs priced below P600,000 would be slapped a 3-percent excise tax from the current zero. Other vehicles not classified as AUVs worth below P600,000 would have to pay an excise tax of 10 percent.

Vehicles worth more than P600,000 but not exceeding P1 million would be slapped an excise tax of 15 percent, those worth up to P2 million would have to pay a tax of 25 percent.

Any vehicle priced above P2 million would have to shoulder an excise tax of 100 percent.

At present, excise taxes on motor vehicles depend on the fuel type and the level of engine displacement, which means a stronger-powered car is slapped with a higher tax.

Under the present set-up, a vehicle with a 1.5-liter engine or lower is subjected to a 15-percent tax while heavier vehicles with a 3-liter engine or higher have to pay an excise tax of 100 percent. Those in between are slapped varying rates of 35 to 50 percent.

Camacho said the value-based excise tax scheme was simpler and more equitable.

However, Campi said the price-based system was vulnerable to changes in the economic environment, particularly the fluctuations in foreign exchange.

"Basing it on value is more progressive aside from being simpler and more fair. There will be a provision for an automatic indexation to factor in price changes brought by currency fluctuations," the finance secretary countered.

The government expects to collect only P2.5 billion to P3 billion in additional revenues yearly if the amendments would be approved by Congress.

This, instead of an earlier target to raise P5 billion in incremental revenue on top of the P5 billion in excise taxes it collects yearly from car-manufacturers.

DIVIDEND NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors of Sun Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. has declared a dividend of \$0.14 per share, in Canadian currency, on the outstanding common shares of the Corporation payable on June 28, 2002, to shareholders of record as at the close of business on May 10, 2002.

By order of the Board of Directors

Joan M. Wilson
Corporate Secretary

May 3, 2002
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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of **ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.**, will be held on 13 May 2002 at 4:00 p.m., at Ballroom I, City Sports Club Cebu, Ayala Business Park, Cebu City, Cebu. The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Stockholders' Meeting
5. Presentation of the Report of the President and of the Board of Directors
6. Ratification of the Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Corporate Officers and Management for the year 2001-2002
7. Election of External Auditors
8. Election of Directors
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

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For those unable to attend the Stockholders' Meeting in Cebu, a Stockholders' Briefing will be conducted in Manila on 16 May 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at Rizal Ballroom C, Makati Shangri-la Hotel, Makati City.

For the Board of Directors.

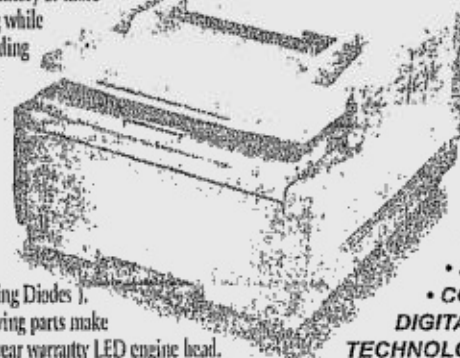
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News that makes a difference

Mother (in-law) dearest

IT was brave, but perhaps foolish, of actress Gretchen Baretto to admit on national TV the disastrous relations she has with the strong-willed mother of her common-law husband, PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr.

One is supposed to keep the lips sealed on these delicate matters, specially, as in this case, when one married way above her class.

We had to call up the producer of Channel 7's Extra!Extra! after Tuesday's airing to confirm that what we thought we heard was really what had been said.

Yes, it is true, the actress gave such solicited answer.

(Gretchen and the Baretto sisters were on a media blitz that day, with Channel 2 simultaneously showing what essentially was the same interview, shot during the NBC Tent birthday party of the Baretto-Cojuangco daughter. To its chagrin, Channel 2 thought it had the exclusive on that party. But we are digressing.)

Lending credence to the Baretto claim was the absence of the Cojuangco side during the children's party, where the humongous NBC Tent was filled with the glamorous showbiz crowd and what looked like hundreds of happy kids.

As if to make up for the Cojuangco absence, TonyBoy's aunt, ex-President Aquino and her nephew Rafael Lopa were present, although unseen on TV, along with TonyBoy's bosom buddy, lawyer Opat Villonco and Opat's father-in-law, PLDT counsel Leonardo Siguion Reyna.

For those who failed to see the episode, TonyBoy made a rare TV appearance to greet his 7-year-old daughter with Baretto, Dominique, who is as *guapa* as her mom. Still, it was painful to watch one of the country's most powerful businessman hoarse out a greeting, afflicted supposedly with the same throat disease that untimely felled his father.

Otherwise TonyBoy looked alright, a picture of domestic contentment.

Urban tangle

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COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

THE ROTARY Club of Makati almost failed to hear its luncheon speaker last Tuesday in the person of Urban Bank president/CEO

COCKTALES/B6

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Neda OKs P8.7-B...

From page B1

rehabilitation of about 190 kilometers of national roads as well as the construction of four new bridges and reconstruction of an-

other eight.

The Saudi Fund for Development will finance half of the project cost while the remaining 50 percent will be covered by local counterpart funds, the Neda said.



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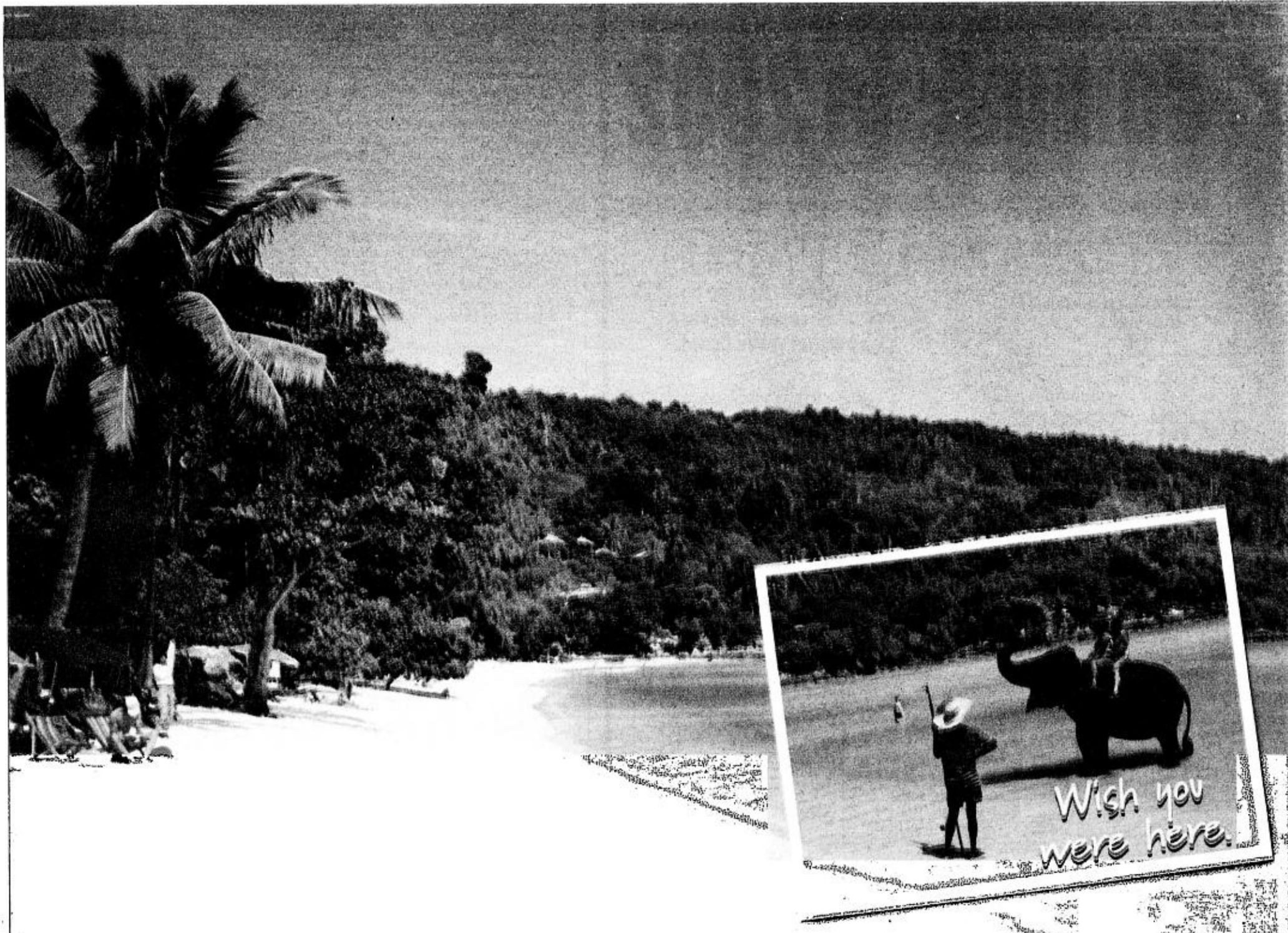
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RP, Taiwan to sign tax deal this month

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES and Taiwan are set to hammer out a tax agreement this month which would finally resolve the double taxation problem faced by Taiwanese investors in the Philippines and Filipino workers in Taiwan.

Manila Economic and Cultural Office chair and chief executive officer Anto-

nio Basilio reported that negotiations on the tax agreement were in the final stages and that both parties were just resolving technical issues.

Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office representative Benjamin Lo also said a tax deal addressing double taxation was likely to be signed this month.

Basilio and Lo agreed that solving the double taxation problem would help

boost investments from Taiwan to the Philippines. Meco and Teco are expecting \$1 billion in foreign direct investments from Taiwan over the next three years.

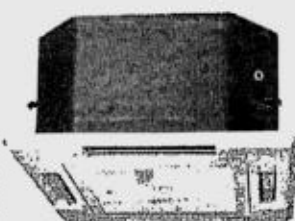
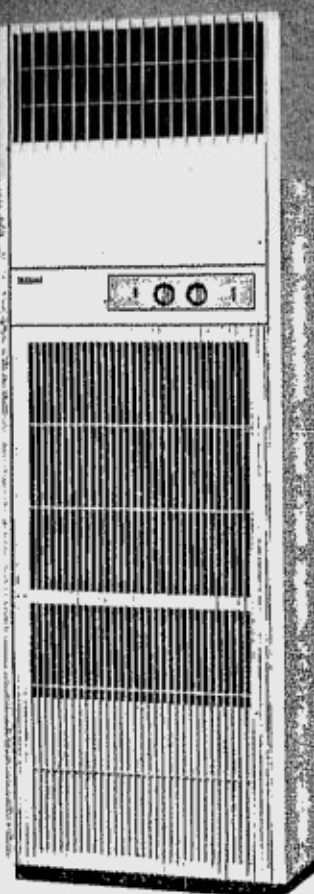
Basilio said he was optimistic of signing the agreement in Taipei before the end of this month in time for the latest Philippine promotion program of Far Eastern Department Stores (FEDS), one

of Taiwan's major retail chains, which will be held in four branches from May 29 to June 9 this year.

Basilio said that under the proposed tax deal, Taiwanese businessmen need not pay additional taxes to their companies if they have paid their taxes on their businesses here. He said this would also apply to Filipino businessmen in Taiwan.

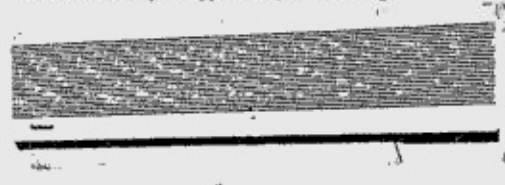
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Where to place your buy and sell orders

MOST readers thought that my story about the cure-all oil, good for bicycles and sewing machines, was pure fiction, but it was not. My wife bought it in a religious shop in Chinatown and it was supposed to have been blessed by a Tibetan monk. All I can tell you is that one-hour after being massaged, the pain in my kidney

Mr. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

stopped and has not returned. Perhaps there is something in this monkey business, after all.

The F.D.A. is testing a new cure for impotence. It is thick oil, which costs less than a tenth of Viagra, and as it is used externally, there are no side effects. The only snag is that it has to be applied by a beautiful 18-year-old Swedish blonde in a bikini. It is also good for car engines.

My article three weeks ago on the effects of a four-day week caused the government to rethink its policy, and it has decided not to shift Ash Wednesday, Holy Thursday and Black Saturday to Mondays. Nor will it change the dates of Christmas and New Year so you can see the power of the Press. As they say in France, Le Pen is mightier than the sword.

Last week I explained how support and resistance came into being and I warned that support was the more fragile and could easily evaporate in a really bad market. Having said this, the best way to place your entry point is, one fluctuation above, the last support level. For selling, place your exit, one fluctuation below the last resistance level. You have to assume for the moment that these levels will hold, but if they do not, you must reverse your position immediately.

Assume you are watching a stock, which trades between P1 and P1.20. It has double bottomed at P1 (round numbers are automatic support), and double topped at P1.20. Only use the closing price, ignore intra-day movements particularly in the first hour. If the stock is falling, place your buying order, not at P1 with 1000 other speculators, but at P1.02. If the market is neutral, or slightly to the up side, the stock will probably not fall to P1.02, but if the market is weak, then it conceivably will.

Assuming a better market, watch the stock, and if it stops falling at P1.04 or P1.06, with more buyers than sellers, jump in. It is probably not going to retrace all its fall, and its low will be above the support level, which means it is now in an up trend (rising bottom).

Place your sell order at P1.18 and frequently, you will be out at the top, because resistance is

harder to penetrate. However, use your judgment. If at P1.16, there are a million buyers and at P1.18 only 100,000 sellers, look at P1.20. If the number of sellers is large, stay with your selling order; if it is small, you can cancel your selling order in the expectation that, as the stock is in an up trend, the resistance level may well be overcome.

If it is penetrated, expect the stock to move up substantially and place your stop-loss three fluctuations below it. So, if the stock rises to P1.40 and hesitates, you should automatically be out at P1.34. This entails being glued to the monitor so do not expect your broker to watch it. In the United States and the United Kingdom, you can place stop losses, but here they do not exist.

A stock, which has rising tops and rising bottoms is obviously trending up, and you should buy it, even if it only retraces half its fall. Such stocks are automatically picked up on Point and Figure charts, or KAGI, which changes color. Go to dorseywright.com for more information.

I have been plotting Point and Figure charts by hand since 1970, and my book of 60 active stocks is updated every hour, a process which takes me only a couple of minutes. Furthermore, my Intraday charts are far more accurate than the computer. The book is my most valuable possession after my four-year-old daughter.

However, you can obtain support and resistance levels from any kind of chart but not with the same degree of accuracy. I tried sending charts to my subscribers but they said that they did not understand them and would rather have the support/resistance levels set out in tabular form, together with the price and my comments. So I send them out twice weekly and update them daily by means of an ALERT. This is the most popular feature, together with my analysis of what foreign brokers are doing, stock by stock.

Next week, I will write about other forms of technical analysis including candlesticks, which are very popular in Japan and here, and also about trend lines.

While I am writing this article, I am watching the demonstrators on the Mendiola Bridge. If the police use tear gas, it will be a site for sore eyes. Why not pass a government decree that all future rallies be held in the Hundred Islands. This would relieve traffic congestion in Manila and bring sorely needed people to a very depressed area. As always, you can contact mrbearbull@hotmail.com.

Cocktales...

From page B3

Teodoro Borlongan.

The Bangko Sentral private counsel, Mario Ongkiko, objected in writing to Borlongan's speaking about the Urban Bank closure, saying it would be sub judice because of the pending cases in court.

Fellow Rotarian Frank Chavez rushed to Borlongan's defense, claiming that what the banker would talk about was precisely what he had already told the court.

In any case, Ongkiko told Rotary president Juan Carlos Jr. that Borlongan's speech must be tape recorded and that the Bangko Sentral/PDIC must be afforded a chance to rebut Borlongan's claim.

To make a long story short, Borlongan, incidentally a former president of the same club, was able to read his speech, whose impassioned delivery came complete with a powerpoint presentation.

Ayala's realignment

THE TANGLED end of Ayala Avenue, where one has to turn left, turn right, make another right before turning left to reach South Avenue, all within a single block, is finally being straightened.

The Makati city government is about to finish building a road that cuts through the irregularly shaped lot and connect Ayala straight to South Ave. That way, City Hall also frees the chokepoint that ties up the criss-crossing traffic

in the intersection during busy hours.

With the new road, a new island will also be formed, sandwiched by Metropolitan Ave., Bagtikan Street and, of course, Ayala Ave. The island would be right in front of the Meralco office and Ecology Village.

The other side of the previously vacant strip of land, incidentally, has been converted as the spanking new home of Toyota Bel-Air. The Yungpangos, who own the lot and the dealership, plan to build on the island a Starbucks- or a McDonald's-type shop, perfect for the volume of traffic passing through that corridor.

Heard through the grapevine

IT HAD just squeaked out of its Jose Velarde nightmare, but now Equitable PCIBank faces a new restiveness, this time from the junior officers of the old PCIBank.

It seems that the absorbed PCIBankers are, despite the July 1999 merger, still P10,500/year apart from the rice/medical/educational package being enjoyed by their counterparts from Equitable.

The junior officers have taken to an e-mail writing campaign, notwithstanding the plea of new Equitable PCIBank president Rene Buenaventura to focus first on the bank rehab. (Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Profit-taking seen

From page B1

Exchange composite index (Phisix) to gain by almost 4 percent or 52 points from a week ago to close at 1,375.59 on Friday.

Top gainers were those in the property counters, benefiting from the downtrend in interest rates and stable foreign exchange rate, as well as the banking sector, which outperformed other sectors in terms of earnings for the first quarter.

Investors rejoiced over the news that US pension fund California Public Employees' Retirement System (Calpers) was considering to invest in the Philippines again.

"We might see a correction from last week's rally. This correction will provide a stronger base for the market's future recovery," said Villamor Vital, president and CEO of The Worldwide Investment Management Co. of the Philippines (Winvest), which manages the P1-billion Kinabukan mutual fund of the Government Service Insurance System.

Vital said the Phisix could fall by as much as 80 points to hit 1,290, noting that the ones most vulnerable to profit-taking were the blue chips which led the rally last week like Ayala Land Inc., Ayala Corp., Bank of the Philippine Islands, SM Prime Holdings and, to a certain extent, San Miguel Corp.

He said second-liners like Filinvest Land Inc.

could also take some beating this week as the property issue had reached overbought levels after its declaration last week of a 100-percent stock dividend.

"We should see stocks come down to earth after last week's euphoria, which came from fulfilled expectations of a peaceful May 1 celebration," he said.

But the Winvest chief said there were still some threats to the market's recovery, including some possible backlash from the boycott staged by the opposition of the political summit held by the administration.

Also one factor which is causing jitters among investors is the threat by local terrorist group Abu Sayyaf to kill its American hostages, the Burnham couple, he said. Another factor cited was the looming oil price increase in the global market, which could exert more pressure on consumer prices.

"The only good thing is the stable peso. The dollar is really overvalued and so I think the exchange rate will be stable for the rest of the year," Vital said.

SB Equities manager for institutional sales Monique Licaros said the market would likely consolidate between 1,300 and 1,450 this week after discounting the positive news on the possible return of Calpers.

She agreed that the stable exchange rate should augur well for local stocks while the start of the initial public offering of Banco de Oro Universal Bank, the banking arm of retail tycoon Henry Sy this week, should bring some excitement to the market.

"Investor plays will depend on the technicals. Some issues are nearing their key support levels like Ayala Corp. and SM Prime," Licaros said.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com said the prevailing weak returns on fixed income instruments, subdued volatility in the foreign exchange market and liquidity in the local financial system were key long-term variables that would support interest in equities trading.

"For now, however, short-term anxieties persist, owed to the fact that downward re-rating in forecast profits for 2002 might keep P/E (price-earnings ratio) levels aloft. What is required at this point is for investors to look beyond P/E readings, by focusing on balance sheet performance as well," it said.

"Several large-cap stocks have diverted from expensive debt servicing, while others have either cut down or permanently eradicated potential foreign exchange risk exposures. On the technical front, most of these fundamentally preferred stocks have already declined at oversold zones, providing windows for short-term trading prospects," it noted.

Doris Dumlaog

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCKS	(As of Friday, May 3, 2002)				VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
	BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES				
	BANKS				
Bank of the Phil. Islands	70	70	70	70	985,500
China Banking Corp.	825	825	825	825	550
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	40.5	38.5	40.5	348,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	6,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41	42	41	41.5	293,600
Philippine National Bank	63	63	63	63	5,200
Phil. Savings Bank	27	29	27	29	600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12	12	30,800
Security Bank Corp.	18.75	19	18	18	32,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	24.25	23.25	24	112,600

COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	30	30	30	30	13,100
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.82	0.84	0.81	0.81	3,320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	645	640	640	41,140
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	1,800,000
Plitel	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1,250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel. Co.	445	462.5	445	457.5	95,800
Ivanstage Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	120,000
Philweb Corp Inc.	0.019	0.019	0.018	0.019	23,600,000

POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	25	26.5	25	26.5	27,700
Manila Electric Co. B	40	42	40	42	1,623,300
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.74	1.68	1.72	6,027,000
Salon Power Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	257,000

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,123,000
William, Gothong & Abolitz	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	15,000

CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	6,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	130,000

FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	10,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	28,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31	31	30	30	340,100
RFM Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.28	1.28	598,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	50	49	50	196,200
San Miguel Corp. B	57.5	58	57	57.5	352,400

HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	100
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.41	0.41	0.4	0.4	60,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	30,000
Ayala Corp.	8	8.1	5.9	6	3,160,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.14	2.22	2.14	2.22	387,000
Nat'l Holdings Inc.	0.48	0.47	0.46	0.46	1,730,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	41,000,000
ATM Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.85	2.7	2.85	35,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.66	0.61	0.65	6,750,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.31	1,520,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.5	6.1	6.5	26,000
Phil-Estate Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.48	1.52	725,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29.5	28.5	28.5	211,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.13	0.115	0.13	2,270,000
Ionics Inc.	7	7	7	7	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	107,000
Macrosia Corp.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.83	1,900,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	0.26	4,210,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.84	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	340,000
Unilife Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.105	0.11	1,000,000

MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	100,000
Matbay Vinyl Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	30,000

HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	910,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	330,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
Mondragon Int'l Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	120,000

BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	30	31	29.5	29.5	1,406,500
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	750	765	750	765	5,010
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
Philweb Corp Inc.-Warrants	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0048	11,000,000

PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	8,965,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0.37	70,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.41	0.38	0.41	3,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	11,330,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	3	3.1	2.95	3.1	11,850,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	1,940,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	170,000
SM Development Corp.	1	1	1	1	8,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	4,656,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	500,000

MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.038	0.041	37,800,000
Leopardo Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
Omicron Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	28,000,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	3,800,000

Imperial Res.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	11,700,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	56,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	17,000,000
Pacific	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	6,200,000
Sinophill Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	800,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000,000

BSP eyes easing of moratorium on bank branches

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas may lift the moratorium on the opening of new branches as part of the enhanced list of incentives for bank mergers and acquisitions.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the policy-making Monetary Board was in favor of giving additional perks for mergers to spur a further consolidation in the banking sector.

He said the Board had instructed BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes to study how the current list of incentives could be expanded. The central bank, he

added, wanted the new list finalized within the second quarter.

The incentives made available under Circular 237 had expired in February 2001.

"If we think a certain incentive will help, we will not hesitate in giving it. For instance, we could give the merging banks the ability to open new branches," the central bank chief said.

The BSP had imposed a moratorium on issuing new branch and bank licenses since 1999. A bank that had exhausted its branch licenses could not put up a new one unless it would buy a branch license from other lenders.

While the tighter rules were implemented precisely to encourage banks to merge and to put a premium on the branches, the central bank had recognized that some players preferred to acquire smaller banking units at a cheaper cost.

Citibank N.A., for instance, is looking for a thrift bank with an existing license to operate a foreign currency deposit unit but not necessarily one with an extensive network.

American Express was not after existing branches when it bought Omni Savings Bank last year.

"The Monetary Board is in

favor of giving additional incentives for as long as they are reasonable. We want greater competition with a reduced number of banks," Buenaventura said.

While the merger of giants were the trend three years ago, this time Buenaventura is hoping that even medium-sized banks would start consolidating.

"We need to offer more incentives to banks but we have not

thought about the additional perks we can offer," Reyes said.

Additional sweeteners, for instance, could include "some financial assistance" or an easing of some of the required financial ratios, the deputy governor noted.

Reyes said that among the important incentives available to merging banks included allowing them to implement a staggered booking of valuation reserves, re-

locate their branches, re-appraise fixed assets, and comply with the one-percent general provision within five years. Merging banks were also exempted from the prohibition against interlocking management.

The merger incentives must be revived and strengthened following the renewed call of the central bank for lenders to consolidate and to emerge as stronger units.

PCI Leasing profit up 38% in Q1

PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. has reported a 38-percent growth in first-quarter profit as financing charges fell by nearly half and drove gross profit margin to even higher levels.

The publicly listed firm registered a net income of P48.7 million for the first three months of the year, as against the year-ago figure of P35.4 million.

Interest income, discounts and service fees—all from its main business of leasing and financing—rose slightly as the company stepped up marketing to counter a weaker economic backdrop for lending and rentals in general. But the bottom line still improved as interest and financing charges—the main operating cost—fell 45.7 percent to P11.5 million.



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'What we can do is at least buy more time...'

THE GOLDEN years of Philippine agriculture—when growth rates would hit 5 percent to 7 percent—have long been a thing of the past. The sector now barely contributes 10 percent to the country's total trade receipts.

With the subsidies granted by the Quezon and Marcos administrations gone, the agriculture sector has had to fend for itself. Priorities changed. Farmlands were converted into industrial estates, and farmers began steadily migrating to already overpopulated urban areas.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor says it is now pointless to wallow in past glories, and that it is instead time to make the most of what the country has.

"What we can do is be competitive and at least buy more time for our agricultural products and the Filipino farmer to be able to compete well," he says.

The stage has been set. Trade barriers will eventually fall, but is the Philippine agriculture sector ready to take up the challenge?

In a round-table discussion with the INQUIRER business staff, Montemayor and Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano provide some answers.

Q: Can you give us an overview of what's going on in the agriculture sector? Why do you think it is showing slower growth rates compared with robust growth rates in the 1970s?

SERRANO: In the 1970s, particularly during the time of (the

late) Agriculture Secretary (Arturo) Tanco, the agriculture sector had comprehensive programs aimed at modernizing the farm sector through the use of modern technology, hybrid seeds and fertilizers and the provision of post-harvest and farm-to-market infrastructure. These were complemented by a strong domestic support in the form of available credit and a regime of high tariffs and import controls. These programs were

Q & A

the "Masagana '99" for palay and the "Masagana" for corn.

However, in the 1980s, the level of domestic support, particularly for infrastructure, petered out. This was reflected in the performance of the sector. The 5-percent to 7-percent growth in agriculture in the mid-1970s dropped dramatically in the 1980s, and that was when the cycle of boom and bust started.

Farm sector growth has been subjected to the vagaries of the weather and, therefore, higher growth rates could not be sustained. If there is drought or flood, we go down to negative. The following year, there will likely be growth only because we are coming from rock bottom.

We don't see any improvement in the irrigation systems. The losses we incur due to the deterioration of existing irrigation system are more than the amount of investments we generate to build new ones.

Q: What happened to all those programs and that

strong government support to the sector?

MONTEMAYOR: We can trace the weakening of government support to agriculture to the changes in the administration. During the time of (late President) Marcos, the government was heavily subsidizing the agriculture sector, not only through credits but also through the massive procurement of production (through the National Food Authority). Under the Aquino administration, however, all these were abandoned in line with the conditions tied to our country program under the International Monetary Fund.

The government's development priorities also changed. Agriculture was no longer the priority.

Q: What happened to the sector after those programs were abandoned?

M: In the 1980s, the growth of the sector, particularly in the production of palay, stagnated. Palay production grew by no more than one percent, while the population was growing by 3 percent or more. Consumption of the staple rose by a higher rate because it was the heavy rice-consuming segment of the population that grew faster. This segment showed a per capita rice consumption of as much as 150 kilos.

It was also during these years when agriculture personnel were transferred to local government units from the national government (through the Department of Agriculture). That set a disparity between their wages and what

national government employees were getting that, in turn, adversely affected their efficiency.

We are now trying to revive the close coordination with the mayors and governors to monitor agriculture workers.

Q: How important is the agriculture sector to the economy?

S: If we talk about primary production, the share of agriculture to gross domestic product has really been declining. In the 1990s, it hovered around 20 percent of GDP. Now, it is only at 18 percent to 19 percent, although about 75 percent of the downstream industries are still dependent on the agriculture sector.

M: The sector contributes 40 percent of the total labor force.

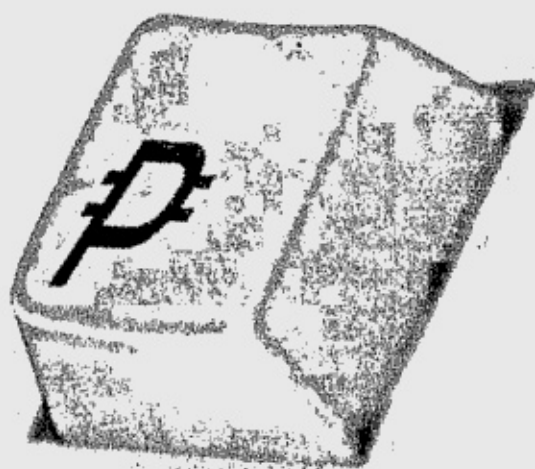
Q: Does the Macapagal administration have a blueprint for the agriculture sector?

M: We have an agriculture and fisheries modernization plan based on the provisions of the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Law. Major interventions (of the government) here are in the area of infrastructure development, particularly in the provision of irrigation systems, farm-



MONTEMAYOR

'Farm sector growth has been subjected to the vagaries of the weather and, therefore, higher growth rates could not be sustained. If there is drought or flood, we go down to negative. The following year, there will likely be growth only because we are coming from rock bottom.'



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to-market roads and post-harvest facilities. For each sub sector of the agriculture sector, there are specific modernization plans. These plans are supported by research and development extension, credit and, to a certain extent, tariff shields.

The chapter for the agriculture sector in the country's medium-term development plan was even written by the President himself.

Q: Is it also specified (in those plans) how the private sector can be involved in the development of Philippine agriculture? Are we getting enough investments from them?

S: We have to show the private sector first that infrastructure investments are laid out, the policy environment is predictable and that the growth of the sector is stable. It is important that the policy environment in the local government level is also stable in convincing the private sector to invest.

Q: Did the medium-term development plan provide which provinces are to be developed for which particular agricultural products? This way of development was envisioned by previous administrations but was never implemented.

M: Yes. That is provided in the basic framework of the Afma. For fisheries, there are the Strategic Agricultural and Fisheries Development Zones, or SAFDZs. In every province, we identify clusters of towns or barangays where there is a good mix of good agricultural lands, infrastructure support, and strong and reliable agricultural farmer groups. These make specific areas suitable for accelerated agricultural development as provided for by Afma. This is supposedly the foundation of area planning. For instance, we have already identified SAFDZs such as Bukidnon, Nueva Ecija and Isabela. The SAFDZs are given the highest priority in terms of investments.

Q: Is there an agricultural integration program wherein the whole operations—from production to manufacturing—can be coordinated?

M: It should be in place, but we think it should be the private sector that should take the initiative. The government can come in only to provide basic infrastructure support and access to credit for some basic intervention, such as providing basic infrastructure support and access to credit. For example, we have the agricultural competitiveness enhancement fund (Acef) for financial support.

Q: But is Acef adequate?

M: It is not. The funding for Acef should come from the tariffs slapped on imported sensitive

agricultural products. These are in-quota tariff revenues or tariffs on products imported under the minimum access volume limitation. The money should go to a special account under the Bureau of Treasury that will provide the funding for Acef. Our problem here is that we are unable to get the full amount collected by the Bureau of Customs on the intended imported agricultural products. We are expecting some P6.5 billion (accumulated since the Ramos administration) for the fund.

S: We found out that the MAV revenues go to the general fund because there was no dedicated special account for this purpose. What we did was to create the so-called Fund 183 for this.

Q: What percentage of the country's total exports is agricultural?

M: Agricultural exports comprise less than 10 percent of total exports. These include coconut oil, banana, pineapple and sugar. Our primary export mar-

'If Australia will not act favorably on our application to export to their markets, some quarters in the Philippine food manufacturing industry are planning to mount a campaign to restrict the importation of Australian dairy products.'

kets are still the United States and Japan.

Q: What is the agriculture department's trade policy direction? What is the status of your negotiations with Australia regarding our fruit exports?

M: We have a pending application to export pineapples and bananas to Australia. The Australian quarantine system requires that Philippine fruits undergo an import risk analysis.

WHAT / B10

2008-09-01

'What we can do is at least buy more time...'

From page B8

It appears that the risk analysis on Philippine pineapple will

be on time. However, even if the analysis' findings are favorable, we still cannot ship more than 50

metric tons because the Australian market is not really that big. **Q: If Australia can do that, why**

don't we just bar Australian products from entering the local market too?

M: If Australia will not act favorably on our application to export to their markets, some quarters in the Philippine food manufacturing industry are planning to mount a campaign to restrict the importation of Australian dairy products.

Q: Can't the government take the lead in that initiative?

S: If we will restrict the entry of Australian dairy, there should be a scientific basis similar to what they are doing with our fruits. Under the sanitary and phytosanitary clause of the World Trade Organization, what Australia is doing is allowed. But by June, we will see if these scientific claims against our fruits really have a basis.

M: Assuming they reject our pineapples, we feel that the move has no scientific basis. There is a system within the WTO that we can resort to, and that is the dispute settlement system.

Q: We have been undergoing this process for the last two years or so. Aren't we exerting too much effort in fighting for this issue? Aren't you going to duplicate what former Agricul-

ture Secretary Edgardo Angara did to their meat products? We were able to prove our point then to Australia.

M: Secretary Angara never made any formal or official government statements about that. What we can do is review our position in the Cairns Group. After the results of their risk analysis on our fruits, that is the only time we can decide on what to do next.

Q: Going back to production and productivity, why is the country's agricultural productivity not growing as fast as those of our Asian neighbors, especially in the case of rice or palay?

S: We have started showing improvements in productivity. In rice or palay, we have been hitting record production since 1999. Last year, we produced 13 million metric tons.

Q: But what do you think slows down improvement in our productivity? Is it the weather, the lack of technological innovation, the lack of irrigation?

M: It's a combination of all these.

Q: If we are hitting record pro-

duction, why are we still importing rice?

S: Because demand or consumption grows faster than production. The population growth rate is really very high, particularly in the heavy rice-eating segment.

Q: How big is our yearly rice import requirement?

S: It changes yearly, it's about 3 percent to 5 percent now. In 1997 and 1998, it was about 10 percent.

Q: Was the increase in productivity you mentioned earlier due to the expansion of the areas planted to rice or to increasing yield per hectare?

S: Both. When you have favorable weather, the tendency is for farmers to cultivate bigger areas. At the same time, yields per hectare are also improving particularly in areas covered by the program of the department. We have increased yield per hectare from 3 metric tons to 4 metric tons in the last five years.

Q: If we have higher productivity per hectare, why do we need to consider planting genetically modified seeds?

M: At present, GMOs are only for

corn—the so-called BT corn. We haven't really cultivated genetically modified rice seeds yet. That is still many years down the road. In the hybrid rice program we are pushing, it is more of the technology that we are promoting. The seeds are locally produced.

Q: Do we have productivity improvement targets?

M: It is actually in terms of the hectareage planted to rice. For this year, we are targeting to plant 135,000 ha to hybrid rice. This will increase to 200,000 hectares by 2003 and to 300,000 ha in the coming years. This is on top of the areas that are already planted to in-bred or conventional rice varieties.

Q: How big is the gap between growth in production and that of the population?

S: Our statistical methods are vague and indirect because we use the disappearance method. Last year, we saw production growing at a higher rate (4 percent) than growth in the population (2.3 percent). However, growth in that segment of the population that consumes more rice grew by a higher rate.

Q: If we can really increase production at a rate that outpaces growth in the population, again, why do we still need to import?

M: We started with a huge gap, and we are still trying to bridge that gap. If we can consistently increase our production at a rate higher than the growth in demand, we have a better chance to be self-sufficient again. In the meantime, we need to continue importing because we are just making sure that there is enough buffer stock (90-day inventory), especially during the lean months of July to September.

Q: Why do we have that big gap between production and demand?

M: During the '80s the government stopped investing in irrigation. After Pantabangan Dam was established, no other projects followed. We have, at present, 1.2 million ha of irrigated farmlands.

Q: Are these lands not affected by the spate of land conversions for industrial purposes?

M: That happened to the towns of San Pedro and Cabuyao, Laguna. What we need to do now is to improve the production per hectare. We can still make do with the remaining agricultural lands we have.

S: If we can only increase our yield per hectare nationwide to at least 5 metric tons, we will have enough. In Asia, we produce slightly higher than Thailand. It is just unfortunate that they have bigger agricultural lands and a smaller population.

Q: If importation is cheaper, why don't we just import our entire requirement and stop planting?

S: It is still strategic for us to cultivate our own farmlands because rice supply in the world market is very thin. What was

available in the market for the last 10 years was only about 50 million metric tons. If there is a sudden drought or flood in China, the major supplier, supply will be wiped out.

Last year, when we bought rice from Thailand and Vietnam, it cost us \$145 per metric ton. Now we will be importing rice at \$180 per metric ton.

Q: What happened to the plan to allow the private sector and farmers themselves do the importation?

M: We need a law before we can allow the private sector engage in importation. Under the law, it's the National Food Authority that was tasked to do importation.

Q: With the government doing all the rice importation, aren't we going against the provisions of the Asian Development Bank's Grains Sector Development Program?

M: No, it is not a condition for the release of the second tranche of the GDSP. The ADB wants the National Food Authority to waive its monopoly in the importation of rice and for it to cut its buying price for palay. It wants the NFA to reduce its buying price to about P9 to P10 per kilo, inclusive of the incentives.

We have been telling the ADB that the incentives should not be tucked in to the price cap because not all farmers can avail themselves of the incentives, particularly the quality and cooperative incentives. The incentive amounts to only 50 centavos per kilo.

Q: Aren't we sending mixed signals in the rice liberalization policy of the government?

M: If you may recall, the president's statement in her State of the Nation Address is that if there is a shortage, the NFA will lift its import monopoly and allow farmers to import. That was the case, but the conditions have changed. This year, rice prices have risen in the world market. When we made the analysis, the price of imported rice, plus the tariff, is almost equal to local palay prices. What incentive will there be for farmers to engage in importation? None. There is even a chance that they will lose in the process.

Another danger is that if you allow farmers to import and, suddenly, they get nervous about the prospects of losing in the venture and they decide not pursue the importation, we will not have any buffer stocks during the lean months, and that may lead to a rice shortage. It is still too risky to force farmers to do the importation.

The next best thing is to allow the Philippine International Trading Corp. do the importation for the NFA and to offer farmers the opportunity to be the distributors of the imported rice.

However, the NFA requires PITC to do the importation only through counter trading arrangements and to train farmer leaders in rice importation.

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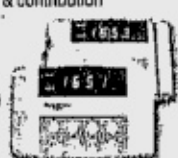
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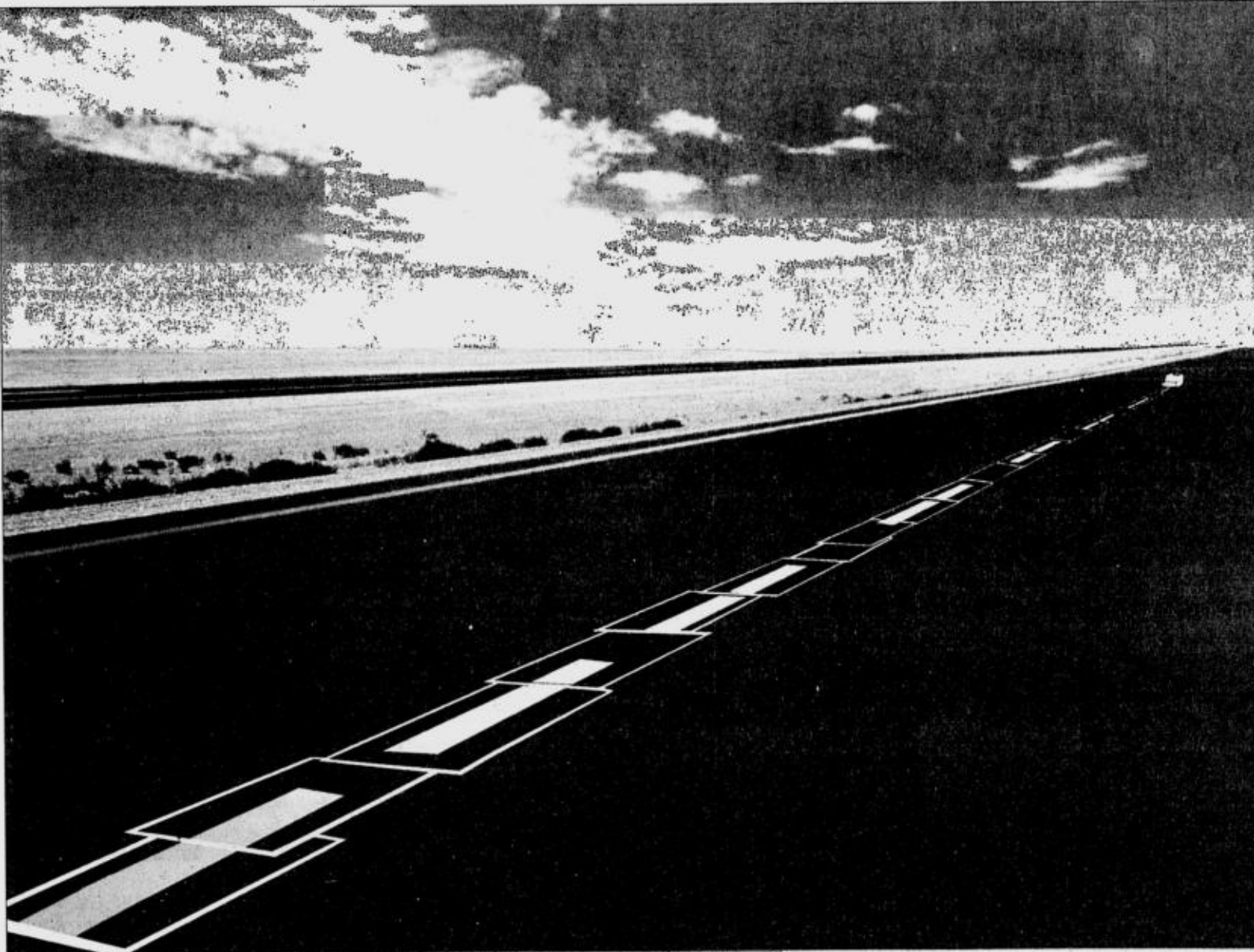
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MONDAY, MAY 6, 2002

BUSINESS

B1

US job gains disappear, leaving economists vexed

NEW YORK—What jobs the US economy created, the government revises away.

On Friday the Labor Department said the world's largest economy spawned 43,000 new jobs in April. But it also said the economy shed 21,000 jobs in March, a sharp about-face from the 58,000 new jobs Labor initially had declared were created that month.

The revision left more than a few economists and investors scratching their heads.

"The revisions have been out-sized," said Ram Bhagavatula, chief US economist at Royal Bank of Scotland Financial Markets. "Two months back-to-back they

said employment's up and then said 'Oops, no, it wasn't up.'"

It's no secret that volatility in economic statistics—particularly around turning points in the business cycle—is high. Huge revisions to government data series, in good times and bad, are hardly new.

The durable goods series, for example, have become notorious for its massive revisions. The monthly number can swing wildly when a company decides to order a new fleet of airplanes.

But Friday's jobs report, which showed the highest unemployment rate in 7-1/2 years in April, got Wall Street talking, in part because it was the seventh month in a row the prior

month's payroll figures were ratcheted lower at first revision.

Some economists suggested that could stem from firms with bad news waiting until the last minute to report their data to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Because it takes time for all of the surveys to trickle in to the government, the bureau makes three separate attempts at estimating the payrolls number. The number, especially when close to zero payroll growth, can easily bounce from positive to negative and back to positive through the final revision.

A report based on a sample is bound to include margins of error and plenty of assumptions.

"The change at first release was 58,000. The error term, the root means square error of the revision, is about close to 70,000, so the chances that it could revise down were there. And over the month, it's still what we would call 'little changed,'" said Angie Clinton, an economist at the Current Employment Statistics Branch of the BLS.

Explanations like that, while perhaps clear to statisticians, lead many analysts and investors to view government data on continuing claims for state jobless benefits, provided weekly, as a better barometer of the health of the labor market. *Reuters*

HP faces tough task in delivering promises

SAN FRANCISCO—Hewlett-Packard chief executive Carly Fiorina, fresh from a bruising battle over the acquisition of Compaq, now faces an even more daunting task of integrating the two computer giants.

Next week, the two companies will formally launch the new firm after one of the most controversial deals in Silicon Valley, completing a tie-up valued at nearly \$20 billion.

But to achieve this, Fiorina had to fight a bitter six-month battle against an anti-merger camp, which included the influential Hewlett and Packard families.

Fiorina and Compaq chief Michael Capellas have set challenging targets—cost savings of \$2.5 billion, 15,000 job cuts, and a 12.5-percent increase in 2003 earnings.

They will need to achieve this by weaving together firms which operate in 160 countries, employ a total of more than 140,000 employees and have a combined revenue of around \$90 billion—second only to International Business Machines in the sector.

"The Hewlett-Packard story for the next 12 to 18 months is a turnaround and merger integration story... (it) is now a show-me stock," said Tony Sacconaghi, a computer hardware analyst with Sanford Bernstein.

Fiorina has said many times that the company has made huge efforts to guarantee a smooth implementation of the tie-up.

According to Capellas, the company has already assigned 100 of its top accounts to sales managers and mapped out three-year plans for many of its products. It has also linked e-mail systems and aligned its human resource functions.

But credit agencies Moody's Investors Service and Standard and Poor's remain skeptical.

In a recent review, Moody's said it may lower HP's credit rating because of the "significant" risks associated with integrating the firms, while S and P maintained its negative credit outlook, citing similar concerns. *AFP*

G8 energy chiefs call for secure, economical power

DETROIT, Michigan—Energy ministers from the world's eight leading industrial powers agreed Friday to pursue secure, economical and reliable power sources for their own economies and those of developing nations, in a statement issued after a one-day energy conference.

"The energy industry stands on the verge of major change," said Herb Dhalliwal, Canada's minister of natural resources.

"Access to secure and reliable energy is important to alleviating poverty. Now is the time for developing countries to develop clean and efficient energy sources."

The US government continues to refuse to sign the international global-warming agreement reached in Kyoto, Japan, in the 1990s, but Dhalliwal said the Canadian government is consulting with its provinces and its power industry before deciding whether to sign.

"All the people at this conference recognize that climate change is a global problem and requires a global solution," Dhalliwal said.

Energy ministers from Japan, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Russia, France, Canada and the United States, also agreed on the need to develop diverse power sources including increased use of nuclear energy and future sources such as hydrogen fuel cells, the attendees said in a statement.

They also agreed to build their own petroleum reserves in case of a major disruption of supply from the Middle East, to pursue open energy markets, and to make the latest energy technologies available to developing nations.

"The views were very consistent not to have this volatility," in petroleum pricing and supply, Dhalliwal said.

"A lot of the time it's the anxiety that creates the increase in prices."

But the environmental pressure group Greenpeace was unimpressed by the lack of concrete proposals emerging from the closed-door meeting.

"We think this is all a big waste of time," said Greenpeace spokesperson Steven Guilbeault.

The meeting of the G8 energy ministers was the first since the 1998 gathering in Moscow and a precursor to a G8 summit scheduled for June in Canada. *AFP*



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INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

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By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

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BIOHAZARD/B15

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I beat the Xbox version of this game in about five days, or a total of about 18 hours, and I got my money's worth. I played alone in the house, after midnight with the lights out, and the game really got to me. This is because SH2 serves its chilling effects through suspense and mood, achieved by an analog noise screen which gives the game's video a grainy filter effect like an old movie, and crisp Dolby Digital 5.1 sound that turns up the creep factor another notch higher. The effect is more psychological because the game doesn't just serve up the blood and gore—it takes you through a dark, well-crafted story. Instead of just leading the gamer to shoot the bad guys and hack the heads off zombies, SH2's script is more like a novel than that of a mere videogame (you'll love the plot twist in the end).

The story starts out with a letter received by James Sunderland, our mild-mannered, slow-running protagonist.

"In my restless dreams, I see that town, Silent Hill. You promised you'd take me there again some day. But you never did. Well, I'm alone now... in our special place... waiting for you," the letter read. The voice acting is great, the letter being read softly, calmly and creepily by Mary, James' wife.

Problem is, Mary has been dead for the last three years. How could she have written such a letter? How did it get to James?

That's where our story begins. James goes to Silent Hill, finds a map and searches the abandoned town which, later on he'll discover, is populated by monstrosities. James searches the town for his dead wife Mary. Sounds crazy? Imagine how James has to explain his purpose to the few human characters in the game. These include Angela Orosco, a crazy broad he meets in the cemetery; Laura, a bratty kid who claims Mary



SILENT/B15

By Leo Magno

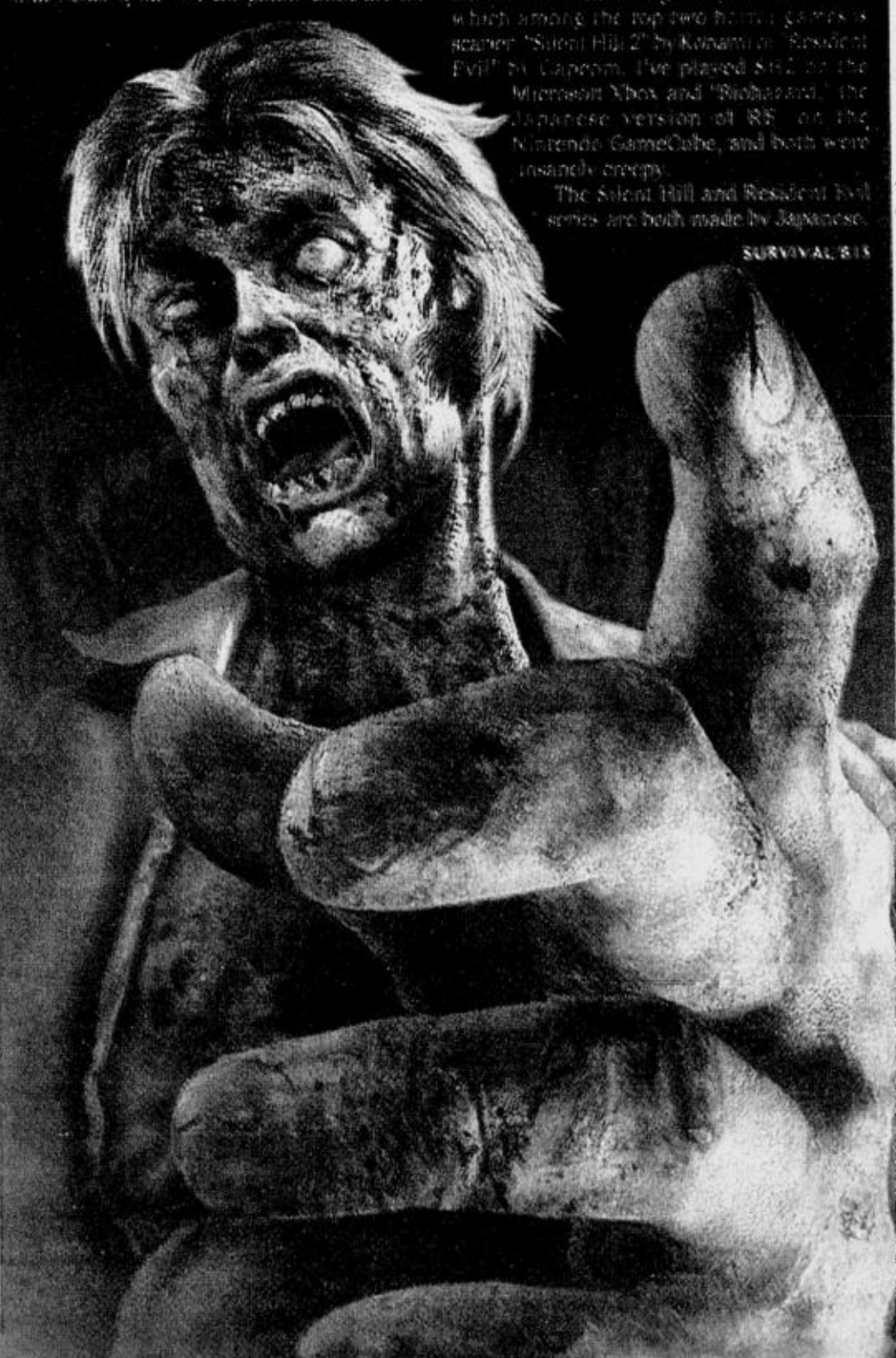
When people see that children of today are being desensitized to blood and gore movies, video and horror films and other horror fiction, that statement should include video games as well. One of the most popular genres in video games today is called "survival horror." Whether the character you play is set in a suspense-horror storyline and he or she is usually given a purpose, the game "Gone are the

old days of video games when Mario and Luigi would be pecked to death by turtles, in which case the gamer would just try again until they save the princess. Today, survival horror games require you to avoid being eaten alive by realistic looking zombies, swallowed whole by a gigantic snake or hacked to death by some bloody maniacs, which came out of a mad plastic surgeon's lab.

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SURVIVAL/B15



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SURVIVAL B13



Biohazard/Resident Evil . . .

From page B14

advise consumers that RE should not be shown to kids.

Now for a few comparisons. The original 1996 RE on the original PlayStation of course does not hold a candle to this GameCube remake. The audio and video have been totally revamped to take advantage of the GameCube's awesome rendering, texture mapping and Dolby Digital 5.1 capabilities. It even has more rooms, sections, puzzles, items and more zombies. Even RE3: Codename Veronica on the PS2 doesn't compare with the technical brilliance of the Cube version, which is like an entirely different game altogether.

Much of the fear factor in RE stem from the realism achieved by the remake. You hear zombies



RESIDENT Evil on the GameCube is superior to other versions.

moan on the other side of the door; flies buzz around rotting, half-eaten flesh; lightning flashes in dark hallways, with shadows outside the window silhouetted by the momentary flash. So RE was remade for the Cube from the ground up. The product was an exercise in crossing a video game with a horror film. The opening cut scenes, for example, were too much for my wife to view; she had to leave the room.

My first zombie was a blast—it came within minutes after I led Chris Redfield into the first door of the mansion. After a few bites off his neck, Chris was dead. Even some of the zombies have changed. There are some that simply won't stay undead once you empty your bullets on them. This new type of zombies—called Crimson Heads—don't lumber slowly toward your general direction. They run straight at you, emitting a blood-curdling scream in the process. Some zombies can even burst through doors unlike in the original RE, so when you see a locked door rattling, chances are there's a zombie behind it trying to get through. The

zombies here are much tougher than in any RE version on the PlayStation.

In addition, RE for the GameCube has two new game modes, and two new endings for a total of 10 endings—even more than Silent Hill 2. This gives it a high replay value, assuming anyone would want to go through the horror all over again.

All in all, Biohazard/RE is a great, scary, action-packed game that shines with its realistic graphics on the GameCube. I haven't beaten the game yet since I'm waiting for my US version, but I'm looking forward to several sleepless nights with it. Still, this early we could give the game a score of 9 out of 10.

For GameCube owners, you'd be happy to know that RE3: Codename Veronica, as well as the all-new "RE Zero" and "RE4" are being developed for the Cube, all with an expected release date of fourth quarter, 2002.

And, unlike the Xbox, I have yet to encounter a game that hangs on a GameCube.

Leo Magno

Silent Hill 2: Restless . . .

From page B14

was her friend; Maria, a woman who looks like James' wife; Eddie Dombrowski, a guy James sees in an apartment puking his guts out into a filthy toilet bowl; and of course, Mary Sunderland, James' dead wife. Check out that scene where Eddie is caught praying to the porcelain god (i.e., puking into the toilet bowl). The puking sounds are so disgustingly real and convincing.

SH2 has five different endings, each depending on how you fare and what you do as you progress in the game. Resident Evil has even more endings with 10. We should see more complex variations of this technique (like the "Choose Your Own Adventure" books of old) in next-generation



PLAYING Silent Hill 2 is like watching a psycho-horror film.

Xbox games like "Project Ego" and in GameCube games like "Kameo" and "Doshin the Giant."

The part where James plays the lead is the main story in SH2 titled "Letter from Silent Heaven." The Xbox version has another subplot titled "Born from a Wish" which has Maria as the lead. This extra game is available only on the Xbox version.

SH2 succeeds in scaring gamers not so much because of the monsters (although they're scary, too) but because it makes you feel uncomfortable. Like a really good horror flick, it makes you feel like something is bound to go wrong if you enter this apartment or that hospital or that dark passageway. SH2 succeeds in cranking up the creep factor to intensity 11 by making good use of creepy music, then tones it down so you can hear scary background noises and footsteps. When you run in the forest you actually hear another set of footsteps following you. When you make James stop running, his footsteps and the extra set of footsteps stop, too.

SH2 also has a lot of puzzles.

But unlike other games where you're supposed to find a key and put it in the right hole, SH2's puzzles are more cerebral. Some are downright difficult, actually, but not to the point that they're there just to give you a hard time; they're part of the unfolding story and they don't present themselves as obvious puzzles.

So SH2 on the Xbox is a great game and, for an RPG, has a lot of replay value (since you get five different endings and you can play an extra game as Maria), has great audio and video and a terrific storyline. But it's not without kinks. The game left me hanging six times in the Woodside Apartments, twice on Katz Street and three times in the Brookhaven Hospital. Whether the defect is with the Xbox or the SH2 disc cannot be ascertained yet, but let me just say that half of my 12 games hang on the Xbox.

All in all, as far as survival horror goes, Silent Hill 2: Restless Dreams has to be the creepiest and most psychologically disturbing game out there. In my book, it gets a 9.1 out of 10.

Leo Magno

THRILL-O-METER Resident Evil (On the GameCube)

- 9 Gameplay—storyline and creativity of the game
- 8 Playability—the control and logic of the game
- 10 Video—animation, graphics, cutaway scenes and movies in the game
- 9 Audio—background music, voice, sound effects and how they enhance mood
- 9 Replay value—is this a game you want to play over and over again?
- 9 Oomph—that certain X-factor which makes you wanna own the game
- 9 TOTAL

THRILL-O-METER Silent Hill 2 (On the Xbox)

- 10 Gameplay—storyline and creativity of the game
- 8 Playability—the control and logic of the game
- 9 Video—animation, graphics, cutaway scenes and movies in the game
- 10 Audio—background music, voice, sound effects and how they enhance mood
- 9 Replay value—is this a game you want to play over and over again?
- 9 Oomph—that certain X-factor which makes you wanna own the game
- 9.1 TOTAL

Survival . . .

From page B14

Generally, the Japanese are light years ahead of the Americans when it comes to game development, and it shows in Silent Hill 2 and Resident Evil. Although SH2 and RE were originally developed on the PlayStation platform, the versions I played were the latest ones on different platforms (Xbox and GameCube), showcasing advanced texture mapping, shadows, new cut scenes or cinematic sequences and Dolby Digital 5.1 for an overall enhanced experience than older PS2 versions such as "RE3: Codename Veronica." Translated, the versions I played are more realistic, the audio was freakingly creepy and the video was unreal.

I'm the type of gamer who plays after midnight when the lights are all out, and most of the time I play all alone at home. A mixture of the creepy audio, dark lighting and shadows and realistic video make SH2 and RE scary.

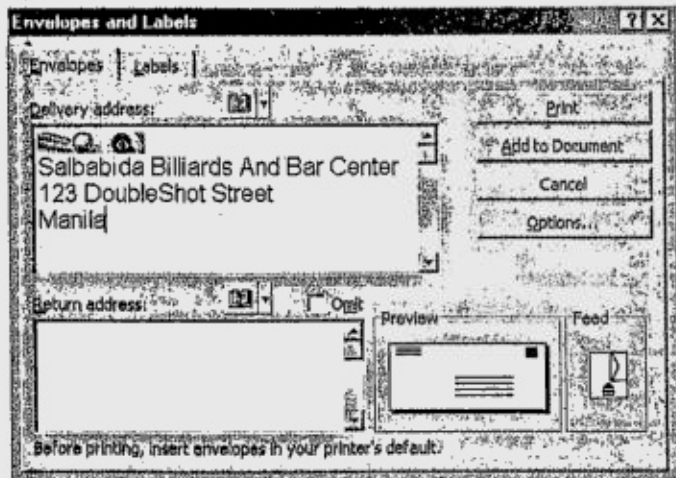
But which one is scarier?

SH2 is a more deliberate, slower game which focuses on the

storyline. If you compare it to a horror flick, SH2 is more of a psychological horror movie with the plot unfolding toward the end and the excitement is turned a notch higher as you approach the climax: I can't think of another game which has a plot as meticulously written as SH2's. This way, Konami was able to achieve its goal: to scare the gamer by playing with his or her senses as the story unfolds.

In contrast, RE could be compared to a fast-paced zombies-eating-humans kind of movie with a predictable plot. It's more action-packed, a little bit shorter and has more gore than SH2.

So if you like plot twists, a more imaginative story and scenes that crawl under your skin, SH2 is for you. If you're more into the action, RE is your game. Both are good but personally, I found SH2 creepier because it plays with your mind. But don't take my word for it. Read both reviews in this issue and find out for yourself.



Adding images to mailing labels

By Jerry Liao

WE normally place our names and addresses on labels. Did you know that you can also include your company logo on your mailing label in MS Word?

(1) Create an image of your company's logo in bitmap (BMP) format (the smaller the image, the better) then save it.

(2) Go to "Tools" then "Envelopes and Labels"

(3) When the dialog box opens, click on "Labels"

(4) Click on the address box. Press Ctrl-F9 to create a field, then type this:

"IncludePicture < location of BMP file >" (e.g.,

C:\logo\mylogo.bmp)

(5) Make sure you use double slash (c:\) for every sub-directory when you enter the file name.

(6) Now, while the cursor is still in the field, press F9. The picture will load and appear in the label.

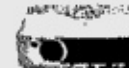
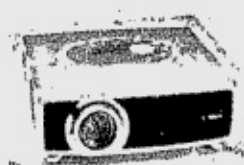
(7) If the picture is too large, use the mouse to resize it.

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BUSINESS

Tan set to buy P2-B gov't shares in PAL

By Clarissa S. Batino

TAIPAN Lucio Tan said he was prepared to put up the P2 billion required to purchase the remaining government shares in flag carrier Philippine Airlines.

"No problem," said Tan when asked during a chance interview after last Friday's signing of the rehabilitation agreement for Philippine National Bank. Tan, however, did not say which of his companies would meet the deadline today to make the payment, as provided for in the put option agreement between PAL, the national government and five state-owned financial institutions.

Under the agreement signed in May 1996, Tan would purchase the remaining PAL shares of the government at P5 per share.

The national government and four state-owned financial institutions have already sent their respective demand letters to PAL, and further actions were being prepared through the Office of the Solicitor General.

The national government accounts for 0.96 percent of PAL, the Government Service Insurance System has 1.37 percent, the Land Bank of the Phils. holds 0.69 percent while the Development Bank of the Phils. and the AFP-Retirement Service Benefits System have 0.31 percent.

A source from one of the state-owned banks said the government would give PAL a month to honor the P2-billion put option agreement.

If PAL fails to settle its obligation, the Office of the Solicitor General is expected to go after Fortune Tobacco

and Asia Brewery, which guaranteed the payment of PAL's obligation.

PAL earlier tried to get out of the six-year-old agreement citing its weak finances and the provision in the agreement that says that the put option would only be exercised if PAL was in good financial health.

Weak tourism, the slowdown in the global economy plus staggering debts, however, have pulled down the flag carrier's par value to only P1 and its book value to only 33 centavos per share.

The put option agreement was a compromise reached between the government and Tan on December 1995 when the PAL board agreed to require existing shareholders to put up P3.4 billion in fresh capital to finance an ambitious re-fleeting program.



Lucio Tan, representing the Lucio Tan Group and Finance Sec. Jose Isidro Camacho, representing the government sign the MOA for the rehabilitation of PNB. The other signatories are PNB Chair Francisco Dizon, BSP Gov. Rafael Buenaventura, PDIC president Norberto Nazareno and Finance Usec. Cornelio Gison

Asean protests tax-free access of canned tuna exports from S. America to US mart

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE ASSOCIATION of Southeast Asian nations has followed the Philippines' lead in protesting Washington's plan to grant duty-free access to canned tuna exports from South American countries along the Andes mountain range.

In a letter to Senator Max Baucus, chair of the US Senate's committee of finance, the Asean Washington Committee (AWC) said the move would not create new trade but divert trade from Asean to Andean countries.

The AWC—composed of ambassadors of Asean countries to the United States—said efforts by the White

House and US Congress to encourage Andean countries to combat narcotic drugs should take into account the detrimental effect on other countries such as the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand that were also in the global campaign against terrorism.

In the case of the Philippines, the AWC said the country's tuna industry was based entirely in Mindanao with up to 10,000 tuna cannery workers from poor ethnic minorities.

The AWC said granting duty-free status to canned tuna imports from Andean countries would destroy the level playing field, which runs counter to fair trade rules.

With lobbying from the Bush administration, the US House of Representatives passed the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act which includes duty-free perks for canned tuna imports from Andean countries.

The Senate Finance Committee has also agreed to grant duty-free access to Andean canned tuna on a limited basis or up to 20 percent of the US domestic canned tuna production in the preceding calendar year.

The AWC said that based on US Bureau of Customs data, canned tuna imports from Andean countries, particularly Ecuador, has been increasing dramatically since 1997.

FIRST 3 MONTHS

Investments in new firms down 22%

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PRIVATE sector continues to feel the ill effects of the global economic slowdown as shown in the 22.1-percent decline in the capital investments of new companies in the first three months of the year.

The Securities and Exchange Commission reported last week that the paid-up capital investments of new domestic companies fell from P4.016 billion in the first quarter last year to P3.126 billion.

Foreign equity also fell by 26.6 percent to only P829.82 million.

The SEC said that it registered 2,913 domestic stock corporations with total authorized capital of P15.95 billion, a drop of 16.8 percent.

The SEC also registered 729 domestic

partnerships in the first quarter, with total contributions amounting to P226.84 million, a 28.1-percent drop from year-ago levels.

Foreign contributions accounted for a mere 0.02 percent of the total, down from .91 percent in first quarter last year.

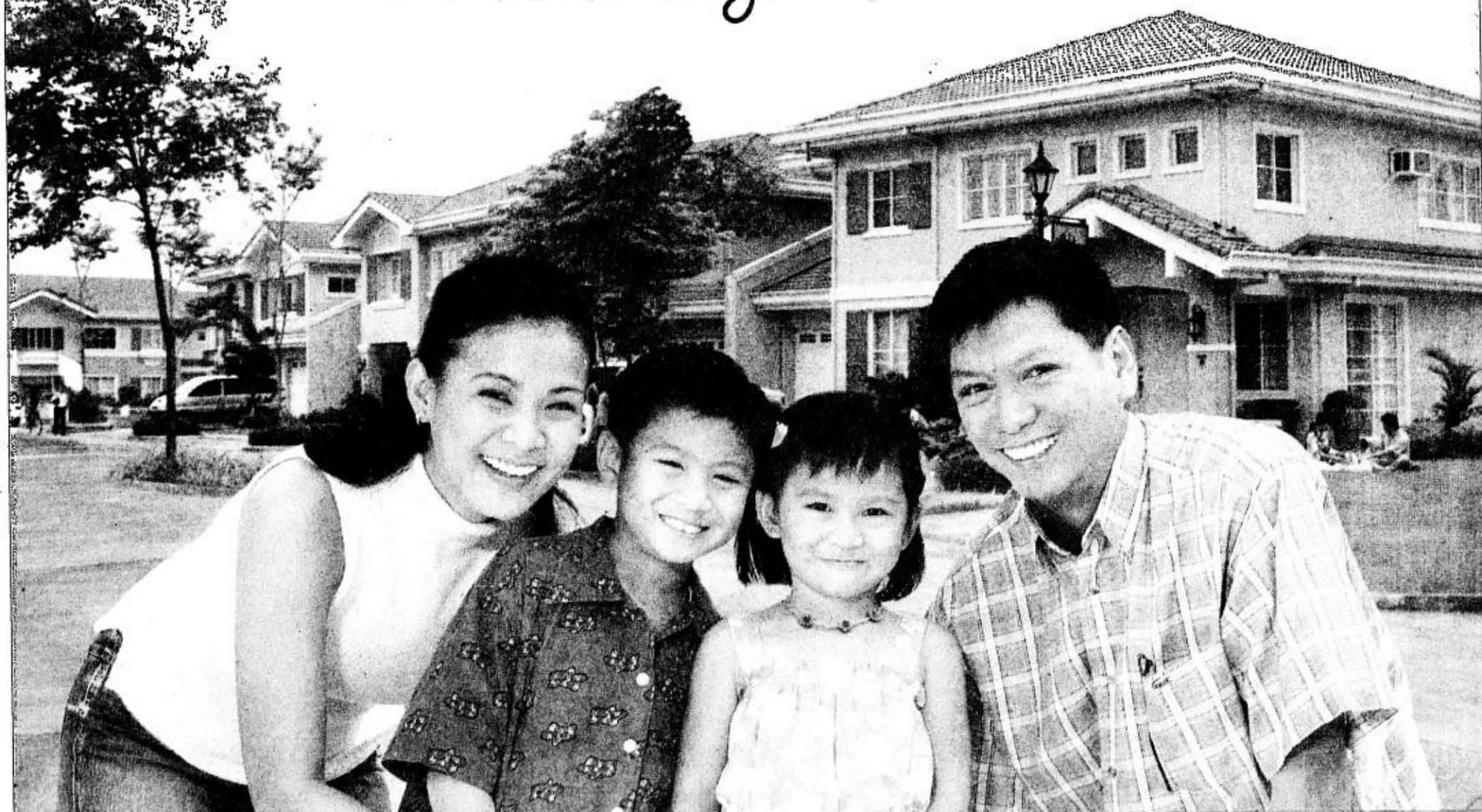
By major industry group, wholesale and retail trade and repair accounted for the lion's share of total paid up capital stock at 27.4 percent coming from 1,346 corporations and partnerships.

This was followed by the financial intermediary group with 186 corporations and partnerships contributing 25.4 percent of total new paid-up capital while real estate, renting and business activities came third with a 21.2-percent share from 970 corporations and partnerships.

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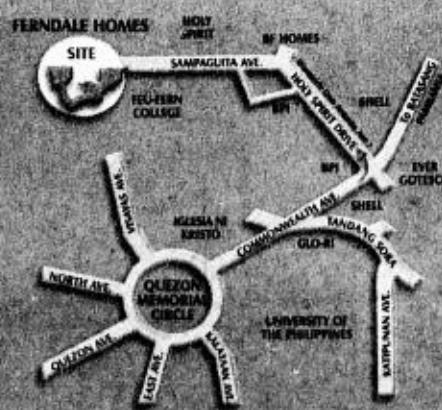
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BUSINESSMonday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

'To be number one, compete directly'

By Leah Salterio

IT TOOK years before Jimmy Duavit, eldest son of GMA 7 stockholder Gilberto M. Duavit Jr., joined the network. In the past, the younger Duavit was merely involved in subsidiary companies of GMA 7, like the advertising production outfit Filmex and the film production arm of the network, GMA Films.

But last year, Duavit formally joined the network as executive vice president and chief operating

officer (COO). He forms part of the new management team with president Felipe L. Gozon and marketing head Manuel Quiogue.

Others perceive Duavit's involvement in the network as an expected move, since he is the child of the owner (COO). For Duavit, a philosophy graduate from the University of the Philippines, it seemed the logical path to take, although he claims it was nothing planned.

When he was still producing movies for GMA Films in success-

ful tandem with Butch Jimenez, son of former GMA 7 president Menardo "Nards" Jimenez, Duavit already saw himself joining the network.

"GMA was deliberately migrating from a playback station where the programming grid was dominated by canned shows in the '80s and a significant part of the early '90s," Duavit shares. "There were some indications that I would join the network simply because we were starting to move more and more towards a local content load."

Before he joined GMA 7, Duavit produced a made-for-TV movie shot on film for "GMA Telesine," directed by Raymond Red.

As early as 1982, even when he was still a student, Duavit was already producing movies. In the mid-'90s, he put up Cinemax then changed it later to GMA Films, which churned out award-winning and critically acclaimed box-office hits like "Jose Rizal," "Muro-Ami," "Deathrow" and "Sa Pusod ng Dagat."

Fortunately, Duavit didn't sense nor observe any resistance from any of the staff or talents of the network when he came in.

"A good part of it was aided greatly by the fact that my family has been a part of the company since 1974," Duavit explains. "In certain terms, some may have expected it and some were not surprised when I eventually came in."

"Being a Duavit helped because it was either assumed or expected that that with my



TO BE/ C6
DUAVIT



BATOON

PGI gets a woman to run Tiwi

By Job Belen

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TIWI, Albay—Her primary concern is the safety of the company, its employees and the community to which, she said, her company has a great social responsibility.

And Minerva Obedoza-Batoon, the new asset manager of the Philippine Geothermal Inc. for its Tiwi geothermal power plant, said it would remain her priority.

MANAGEMENT STYLES



"We spend a lot of money and other resources for our

safety program," disclosed Batoon, the first Filipino national and woman executive to handle the top position in PGI's Tiwi field and the second Filipino to hold the same post in PGI's management hierarchy.

The first was Antonio Yee, her counterpart in the Makiling-Banahaw geothermal plant.

Stephen Pye, PGI president and general manager based in Makati, has appointed her to the post recently. Her appointment was confirmed by the Union Oil of California management in the United States.

Batoon, in her early 40s, replaces Jens Pedersen in the top post at the Tiwi geothermal field, the country's first.

Safety funds

The intelligent but humble lady executive said the company's safety program funds are not fixed.

"The company provides whatever is needed," she says.

Batoon stresses that there's no truth to the notion that geothermal operation is a health-

PGI/ C2

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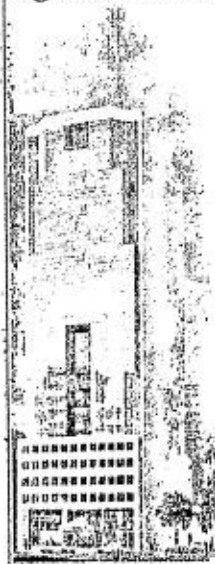
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Out of sync

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Marilyn G. Ong



MANY people, not just business people, must be scratching their heads at the news that Malacañang is allowing government offices to shorten the workweek to four days.

Or make that double-scratching of scalps, as we have not yet fully digested the logic behind the latest spate of holidays granted, taken back, and granted anew with modifications by Malacañang.

One of our messengers lost track of it all, and arrived late in the office Monday the 25th—he thought that it was a holiday.

For years, we have been taught the value of planning, but how can we plan rationally if the government keeps on springing surprises one after the other?

Isn't it bad enough that the prices of fuel and electric power defy prediction, or that the government couldn't seem to get its act together regarding tariffs for imported cement and other imports?

It's a mess, the way things are going. The economy thrives on order, on systems and patterns, on tradition as well as innovation, but not on anarchy and unpredictable events that defy economic sense.

As to the four-day workweek, it's not a bad idea per se.

Uniform

But it has to be uniform, rather than different from one office to another and dependent on so many variables. We require guarantees that by say 7 p.m., all government offices will still be open and fully functioning.

There ought to be assurances that government productivity on a per hour basis would not be lower than it already is. But if the new system would just result in the same number of hours weekly for less work at the same pay, then citizens ought to cry fraud.

There has been criticism that the three-day weekend won't mean much to ordinary government workers, who still couldn't afford to become domestic tourists. Well, that is just part of the truth.

The other part is, even upper-level employees in the private sector would soon be unable to afford domestic tourism, if their companies can't adjust constantly to the surprises that their government imposes on them with scant notice and still scantier need.

And this optimism regarding tourism is inconsistent with the alleviation of poverty. OK, so it's tourism season come post-graduation time, probably up to the enrolment period in late May or June. You can bet that tourism is a luxury that very few can indulge in, and in numbers that cannot democratically justify the costs to others.

Job seekers

Think of the thousands of mass transit workers, sidewalk vendors and small restaurants who will be losing considerable income when government offices—and public schools—cut the workweek to four days. Can they afford not to eat for one day in every week?

And think of the hordes of job seekers who can't get their clearances (barangay, police, NBI, fiscal's, court, etc.) and other documentary requirements (birth/marriage certificates, passports, etc.) as fast as the money in their pockets can last.

Tens of thousands of new graduates will be

entering the labor force, or swelling the ranks of the unemployed, this month and the next. They need jobs fast. Can a government on a four-day workweek accommodate them?

Now that the labor department has defined labor-only contracting in a manner that employers find more restrictive, the chances of getting a job have become slimmer. Would that turn the unemployed into tourists? Oh, they might mangle in the malls, but that wouldn't make tourists out of them.

Our country needs to get its act together. If the government doesn't move in synch with the private sector, there'll be chaos, not just inefficiencies and gaps.

And naturally, that would stoke the burners of corruption, because various companies would be tempted to spend money just to know in advance what the government is going to do next on a day-to-day basis.

Government employees—more so officials with perks like getting escorted by police cars and motorcycle cops to speed them through the traffic of lesser mortals—already enjoy privileges that the private sector is finding increasingly hard to sustain, like 15 days of vacation leaves and 15 days of sick leaves, not to mention birthday leaves.

More restraint

To entitle them further to a four-day workweek without truly compelling and urgent reason would be neither politically correct nor economically sound—many government workers are even opposed to it.

And it would raise eyebrows in the international community: we would probably be the only nation on this planet with a government that observes a four-day workweek and a plethora of holidays and doesn't give a damn to investors and diplomats who follow the universal calendar.

And somebody ought to remind the Abu Sayyaf and the MILF that their enemy, the government, is no longer available for Friday negotiations, "back-channel" or otherwise.

Enough said. The bottom line is, the government should exercise more restraint, especially when it comes to schemes which are not absolutely necessary and which can produce more loss than gain. We can do better with less surprises. It's bad enough that people speculate every now and then about coups d'etat. If we speculate about office hours and government services and holidays, we'd really get so disoriented that somebody just might mount a coup d'etat just to get our bearings back. So please, let's (just) stay on track. (This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president and CEO of Stonework's Specialists International Corp. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

Singapore execs struggle as iron rice bowls vanish

SINGAPORE—Fred Cordeiro, 38, is back at school these days learning how to manage computer databases but life has already taught the former bank vice president one hard lesson.

The iron rice bowl for white collar workers in Singapore, suffering its worst recession in four decades, is history.

"I saw it coming. It was quite obvious, but I didn't expect them to close the bank with that kind of speed," said Cordeiro, a former vice

president of cash management at an American bank who was retrenched last year.

"I'm quite sure that job security is an oxymoron, seeing what has happened," he told Reuters.

Like Cordeiro, most of Singapore's white collar workers used to be able to count on having stable and well-paying jobs pretty much until they retired. It was their blue-collar colleagues in manufacturing who usually

SINGAPORE/ C3

PGI gets a woman to run Tiwi

From page C1

hazard. "It's a misconception."

She says PGI has been doing its best to adopt the most modern technology to see to it that all the projects it undertake are safe.

"If you feel you are not safe you can always say 'no' to work," Batoon, a mother of two, advises.

Asked about the fear gripping some villagers about geothermal exploration, the charming PGI official smilingly says with sincerity, "They have no reason to fear."

She adds that she also understands the opposition posed by some residents near the plant and she does not consider them as enemies or adversaries.

"Perhaps, they just do not fully understand yet the efforts being done by PGI for their safety," she explains.

Batoon adds that in every project, they really expect opposition, but they try to reach out as much as possible.

"We have to do what needs to be done. We strictly follow legal requirements," she says.

A Pangasinense

A native of Villasis, Pangasinan, Batoon has been with the PGI for 22 years now.

Starting as a chemist (she is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of the Philippines), she later became an environmental specialist for PGI's operations here and in the Mak-Ban geothermal plant.

Hardworking and conscientious, Batoon was then promoted as manager for resource technology in 1998.

In her first day as the new boss in PGI's Tiwi

office, Batoon told the INQUIRER that she was not new to the office since she has been here for quite a long time now.

"I was assigned in Tiwi in 1980, that's why I know most of the employees, except for those young in the service," she says.

She adds that before she was assigned to managerial position, she had occupied various positions in the company.

To find sufficient time for both her work and her family, the lady executive in a male-dominated company commutes almost every week to and from Metro Manila where her family stays.

Aside from her experience and length of stay with the company, Batoon is academically prepared for the top post, having studied Master of Business Administration in the De la Salle University. She only needs to defend her thesis.

Well deserved

And her subordinates, mostly male, at the Tiwi geothermal plant believe the opportunity and responsibility given to her by the PGI top management is well deserved.

Batoon's appointment is in line with PGI's commitment to give Filipino nationals the opportunity to occupy senior management positions. Some 98 percent of the company's workforce are Filipinos.

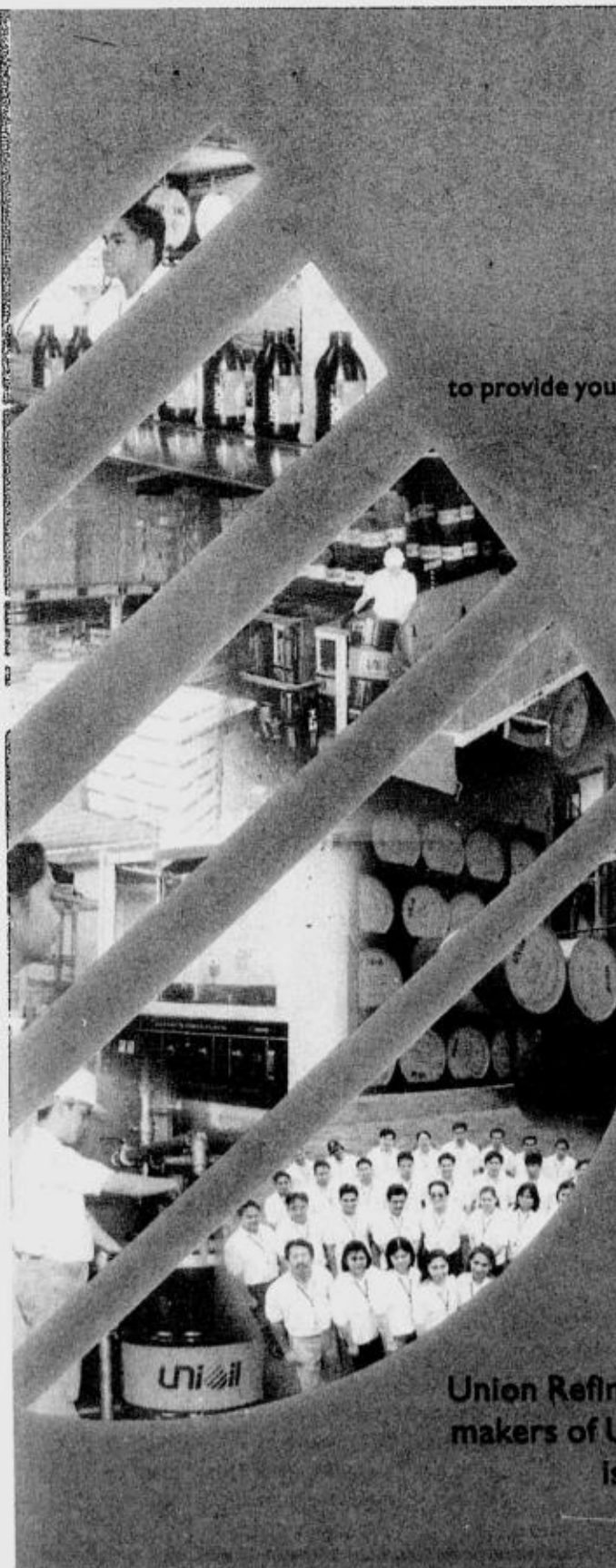
A wholly owned subsidiary of Unocal, PGI pioneered in geothermal exploration and development in Asia in 1971. With an investment of \$475 million here and in Mak-Ban geothermal fields, PGI has entered into a harmonious partnership with the National Power Corp. to deliver clean, indigenous, reliable and affordable power to the Luzon grid.



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On second try, Filipino cracks 'glass ceiling'

By Raul C. Dancel

FOR most Filipino managers, working for a multinational corporation has always meant keeping below a certain threshold that has prevented them from truly running the show.

These companies prefer sending one of their own—their eyes and ears—to stay on top of things. If it's a Japanese company, a Japanese is usually on top. The same goes for an American or a European company.

Among local auto executives, this "threshold" was seen as a "glass ceiling" that hung over the entire industry, something that everyone could not really see but knew was there, blocking their advance.

Ford

At Ford Group Philippines, however, this ceiling has been breached by someone who ironically had once given up on trying.

Since April 1, Henry Co has been effectively running the show at Ford Philippines. He replaced Terry Emrick, who decided to retire after working for Ford for 37 years.

For Henry, it was a case of getting it right at being proven wrong. He'd given up on the industry in 1997 precisely because he felt he had reached that "glass ceiling"—the limit of what he could be—with the job he had.

At the time, he was vice president for manufacturing at Nissan Motor Philippines Inc., and there seemed to be nowhere else to go except laterally or down. So he walked away.

"When people ask me why I left, I always say that I gave up because my wife was making more money selling ice cream than me working for Nissan, and that my pride just cannot take it," he says in jest.

Turning serious, he explains, "The real reason was that after 15 years working in the industry, one day I decided to reach up and that was the time I realized that there was this large glass ceiling spread across the whole auto industry beyond which Filipino professionals just could not break through."

"Today, I am very proud to say that we finally cracked that glass ceiling," he says.

Not his alone

Co says he does not see his appointment as head of Ford Philippines as his achievement alone.

"It is an achievement for all Filipino professionals in the auto industry," he says. "It is the result of many years of hard work by many people in the industry constantly pushing hard against that glass ceiling, trying to prove to the world that the Filipino automotive professional is as good as any."

Not everyone, however, shares his view of things.

Nissan Philippines vice president Val de Leon says he doesn't believe a "glass ceiling" exists over the industry. But when asked if he thought he himself could become president of Nissan Philippines, he just smiled.

Arnel Doria, deputy marketing head of Honda Cars Philippines Inc., also does not believe in a career barrier over the heads of Filipino executives working for multinational companies.

"I cannot speak for the other companies, but in our case, we don't have that feeling. In fact, we're open to having a Filipino as a president, but it's a matter of proving yourself," he says.

Doria describes the corporate culture at Honda Philippines as the "most non-Japanese" among

Japanese companies here.

He says there's a big chance that a Filipino may one day find himself running the show at Honda Philippines.

"In our case, if I or anyone else here is appointed, the fact is that you have to prove yourself, that the decision is right, and that you are the correct person there. It's a matter of proving yourself, wherever you go," he adds.

Bigger share

Co is hoping that in three years, Ford Philippines will corner about 15 percent of the domestic market.

"I intend to grow our market share in the Philippines to what I believe is our rightful share," he says.

Co says the automaker's current "product mix" is preventing it from taking a bigger share of the market.

"With the introduction of new and exciting products in the next few years, I intend to grow our share from 6.7 percent today to 15 percent by 2005," he says.

Car sales slipped 2.2 percent to 11,425 units from January to February this year from 11,686 units in the same period last year, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc.

Apart from working on increasing Ford Philippines' market share, Co shares that he would also try to establish the automaker's position as a major supplier of completely built-up units in Southeast Asia.

Ford Philippines exports completely built-up Lynx passenger cars to Thailand. It also assembles the Ranger pickup at its manufacturing plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Ford's Thai subsidiary, Auto Alliance Co. Ltd., in turn, is set to ship this year Ranger pickups and Volvo sedans to the Philippines.

Last month, Ford exported about 100 Lynx units to Thailand.

"Before the end of the year, we will be exporting about 600 vehicles to other parts of Asean," Co says.

New era

"The era of an Asean regional market of 500 million consumers has started," Co says. "The business model wherein carmakers assembled small quantities of (completely knocked-down) kits using imported and some local parts for sale in a protected domestic market will go away."

He says that with tariff on completely built-up units in Southeast Asia set to go down to 5 percent next year, "local content will be replaced by Asean content, CKD kits will be replaced by part-by-part importation, carmakers will integrate manufacturing in Asean, and plants will specialize in specific models."

"The competition will no longer be between local carmakers but between regional brands," he says, adding that in Southeast Asia's new auto market, "carmakers who refuse to recognize this change run the risk of failure."

In the case of Ford Philippines, he says, "I am very confident that with the strong management team the company has in the Philippines, we would be ready for this."



CO: "When people ask me why I left, I always say that I gave up because my wife was making more money selling ice cream than me working for Nissan, and that my pride just cannot take it." Now, he heads the Ford Group.

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Singapore execs . . .

From page C2

got laid off in a crunch.

Now it is their turn to worry, as companies merge and automate operations to save costs in the recession.

Analysts say the current slowdown marks a watershed for the job market because even when the economy recovers, the unemployment rate is not expected to return to the low 2 percent of the early 1990s.

The government has said the unemployment rate at 4.5 percent in March, around Asian financial crisis levels, may reach 5.5 to 6.0 percent by the second half of this year after job vacancies slumped in 2001.

Unemployment, which struck the manufacturing sector hardest at the start of Singapore's current recession, has now spread to other sectors of the economy.

In the first nine months of last year, one in three of those laid off was a white collar worker and the majority were middle career, government statistics show.

Wider income disparity

Not only has the iron rice bowl been broken, Singaporeans have also been told to brace for wider income disparities in the years ahead, as those with talents in key areas are paid better than those in lagging industries.

It is the skilled worker in industries like life sciences and technology who is in greatest demand and actively wooed.

Headhunters and employment agencies say apart from fresh graduates, those finding it hard to secure jobs are staff in specialized positions and older workers who cost more to retain.

"The finance sector is the second or third largest group of professionals we have on our database. They are increasing," said Malek Ali, vice president of marketing at employment agency jobstreet.com.

"We're seeing that specialists in the sector, like a settlements officer, find it difficult to move on."

Reuters



New accounting rules cause havoc for big corporations

NEW YORK—Still smarting from the recession and the Sept. 11 attacks, many of America's large corporations are taking another financial hit, thanks to new accounting rules forcing them to write billions off their books for money lost on past merger and acquisition deals.

Companies used to acknowledge the erosion in small increments over periods lasting up to 40 years under a technique known as amortization of goodwill.

But regulators required companies to stop amortizing goodwill this year, and the change is resulting in hefty losses for many companies reporting the writedowns for the first time in their first-quarter earnings statements.

Wednesday afternoon, AOL Time Warner announced the biggest writedown so far under the accounting changes—a one-time

balance sheet charge of \$54.2 billion reflecting the company's market value decline since it was announced in January 2000 that America Online and Time Warner would merge in a \$106-billion deal.

The massive charge, however, didn't shock experts who follow the company because it had already been announced. And for AOL Time Warner and other companies affected by the accounting rule changes, the writedowns amount to paper losses generally anticipated by analysts.

The rule changes were made by the Financial Accounting Standards Board, which develops private sector accounting rules recognized by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Critics said the old rules governing accounting for mergers and acquisitions allowed companies to understate the value of

their purchases and inflate earnings, said Itzhak Sharav, an accounting professor at Columbia University's business school.

But the changes are hitting many companies hard now because of the timing under which they are taking effect. That's because the value of many acquisitions US corporations made in the late 1990s and in 2000 plunged last year as the economy slid into a recession.

Underlying the changes is the accounting concept of goodwill.

When one company buys another, there's always a book value to the acquisition—the firm's assets minus its debts.

But goodwill comes into play because there is a host of intangible assets that make the value of the acquisition worth more than the whole of its identifiable parts, said Kim Petrone, FASB's director

of planning, development and support activities.

It could be that the company being bought has valuable locations and employees or strong customer loyalty. Also, acquiring companies usually pay more than the value of what they are buying to ensure that the deal goes through.

"Goodwill is the difference between what you paid and the fair value of the underlying liabilities and assets of what you bought," Petrone said.

Under the old rules, goodwill was considered a "wasting asset" that declined in value over time and had to be depreciated, which cuts into companies' earnings a little bit each quarter.

But under the new rules, goodwill isn't necessarily a wasting asset.

"Those may be more valuable assets now. It's better accounting in

the sense that it more accurately reflects the value of each acquisition," said April Klein, an accounting professor at New York University's Stern School of Business.

The new rules let companies leave the value of their goodwill as is on their books unless it falls—under another accounting term called "impairment."

"If you bought the company and paid a fair price there's no reason to write it down," Klein said. The AOL-Time Warner merger "created all this goodwill, but there's an impairment because they paid more than its worth. Who knew the Internet bubble would burst, but they have to write it down."

The problem is magnified for companies now because of the mergers and acquisitions craze of the 1990s that saw huge acquisi-

tion deals for ever-increasing prices.

Many were in the technology sector, which crashed hard in 2000 and 2001, erasing much of the goodwill.

But companies in other sectors aren't immune to the accounting rule changes.

For example, supermarket giant Safeway Inc. last month recognized a \$700-million setback on major acquisitions in Illinois and Texas, saddling the Pleasanton, California-based grocer with a substantial first-quarter loss.

Under the guidelines, Safeway concluded that its Chicago-based Dominick's chain had diminished \$589 million in value since the company bought it for \$1.2 billion in 1998. Safeway said it lost \$111 million of its investment in Houston-based Randall's, which it purchased for \$1.3 billion in 1999. AP

Cement group asks court to hold industry

IN THE first-ever case to be decided under Republic Act No. 8800 or the Safeguard Measures Act, the applicant got more legal questions than remedies.

In a 72-page petition for certiorari, prohibition and mandamus filed at the CA's Special 12th Division, the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. (Philcemcor) asked for the annulment of the decision of DTI Secretary Manuel Roxas II to implement the Tariff Commission Report that recommended the non-imposition of safeguards on imported cement on the ground that it was allegedly issued with grave abuse of discretion.

In its petition, Philcemcor stated that cement imports have surged primarily because of the very low tariff imposed on imported cement amid the massive regional excess capacities of all cement-producing countries in the region. While neighboring countries maintained high tariff and non-tariff walls, the Philippine government slashed tariffs on imported cement to 3 percent for Asean countries and 5 percent for non-Asean countries causing imported cement to surge into the country.

Thus, the Tariff Commission found that imports increased by 163.32 percent in 1999 and by 232.83 percent in 2000. And for the first three quarters of 2001, cement imports were already at 1.86 million metric tons, higher than the 1.57 million metric tons of the entire volume imported in 2000.

Baseless report

Philcemcor also sought to annul the Tariff Commission Report because it allegedly violated and ignored provisions of RA 8800 (Safeguard Measures Act) and the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRRs) "as it made capricious and patently erroneous assessments or conclusions contrary to the indubitable facts documenting serious injury to the local cement industry when it rendered said report."

Philcemcor stated that the data of the Tariff Commission itself would prove serious injury to the industry. Philcemcor pointed out that the decline in sales volume of 12 percent in 2000 is equivalent to 34.8 million less cement bags sold which is valued at P3.8 billion. Also, the decline in production by 5 percent in 2000 is serious because it represents 15 million less cement bags produced that is valued at P1.6 billion. Despite such findings, however, the commission allegedly arbitrarily ruled out serious injury.

Philcemcor also noted that while the commission found no serious injury to the domestic cement industry despite a 5-percent decline in production, it found serious injury to the ceramic tile industry despite the fact that the tile industry's production increased by 18 percent in 2000.

The petition also pointed out that while the Tariff Commission conceded that the decline in the local industry's market share was "rapid, sharp and significant," it "arbitrarily" concluded that imports' market share of 21 percent is still not serious injury or even a threat thereof to local industry.

Philcemcor also questioned why the Tariff Commission did not consider the idling of eight efficient dry kilns after import surge began as serious injury to the industry. It noted that the law specifically requires the Tariff Commission to evaluate the idling of plants. But despite its own findings on the idling of eight dry kilns, the Tariff Commission failed to consider this factor.

Philcemcor

Philcemcor also claimed that the Tariff Commission ruling has increased the bar for industries to prove threat of serious injury because it required Philcemcor to present documents that are in the possession of importers.

Philcemcor also took issue with the "unsubstantiated" conclusions of the Tariff Commission. According to Philcemcor, there is no basis for the commission to conclude that the non-imposition of the safeguard would benefit consumers when the commission had earlier found that imported cement was being sold at prices higher than local cement. Philcemcor also pointed out that the commission made conclusions on public interest when it had repeatedly announced during the public consultation that it would not accept evidence on public interest.

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Teaching the Japanese to buy 'Made in RP' Japan



KAWADA

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHEN Yoji Kawada first brought Filipino products to Japan in 1985, Japanese consumers got hooked immediately.

But as soon as they realize that the products were "Made in the Philippines," the Japanese consumers turned away.

Such was the challenge Kawada faced at that time, but he was determined to change the Japanese people's mindset over Philippine products. Speaking through an interpreter, Kawada told the *INQUIRER* in an interview last week that his desire to see the Japanese change their view of Philippine products stemmed from his love for the Philippines and the Filipino people.

Kawada first came to the Philippines in 1970 right after he graduated from college in Japan. He worked at that time for a locomotive company with interests in the Philippines.

Good chance

He would visit often and soon became attached to the country and its myriad of prod-

ucts that he felt stood a good chance of making it in Japan.

"I thought that it would make a good business opportunity because Japanese consumers at that time were used to American and European products. I thought that there is a huge potential for Asian food," Kawada explained.

Nellicom

Since his father was in the food business, it was an easy transition for Kawada from being employed to becoming a businessman. He gambled on Philippine products and in 1985, brought his first product—Nellicom banana ketchup—to Japan.

In two years, he brought in 15 containers full of ketchup to a Japanese market that was used to tomato ketchup.

The initiation, however, was far from easy as Japan had the highest standards for food imports, with some requirements even stricter than the United States or the European Union.

"I had to teach manufacturers how to make

their products eligible for export to Japan. For Nellicom, I told them to remove the preservatives because preservatives are not allowed in Japan," he explained.

From banana ketchup, Kawada's firm Kobo Co. Ltd. based in Gifu City, Gifu, Japan, spread to fruit juices manufactured by the Magnolia Corp.

"I remember at that time that some of the Japanese who tried out the products in the supermarkets did not even know what mango was. They thought it was persimmon. But the Japanese who were able to travel knew what it was and they know that mango from the Philippines is the best," Kawada said.

The fruit juices were again subjected to strict import controls, even if it was already manufactured by a top corporation in the Philippines.

Kawada stressed that Japan is very particular when it comes to packaging. The requirements even go so far as to require the importer to reject a whole carton of fruit juices even if only one brick had a defective straw.

Kawada stressed that his company can not take chances with quality as the major supermarket chains in Japan would no longer order products from an importer if even just one product is defective.

High quality

"This is what I have been trying to promote in the Philippines, to be more quality conscious. This is the main reason why some Japanese do not want to eat food that says Made in the Philippines. They always connect it with low quality," Kawada says.

Kawada, however, says that the Philippines has definitely come a long way since 1985.

This is the main reason why Kobo Co. has been able to expand its list of Filipino products to include Tentay products, Mama Sita mixes, banana chips, dried mango from Cebu, Sky Flakes, Rita Ritz Banaba Tea and ice cream from Fruits in Ice Cream.

Kawada says the fruit juices and the premium ice cream from Fruits in Ice Cream have emerged as the strongest products in his collection. He says the fact that the ice cream passed the very strict standards of bacterial content, packaging and sugar content gives him hope that more Philippine products would eventually be accepted.

Kawada has been importing Fruits in Ice Cream (positioned as the Philippine version of Haagen Dazs) for five years and the most popular flavors are ube, halo halo and mango. It remains the only Philippine-made ice cream accepted in Japan.

Increase products

Kawada says his aim is to increase his product list to at least 100 before he starts scouting for other Asian food products to bring to Japan. His next target as of now is Vietnam.

"I believe that the Philippines is on its way to becoming known for quality but there are still problems like the use of artificial food color and preservatives. The packaging also has to be improved," he says.

He adds that the Philippines should take immediate steps to correct these problems as Thailand is slowly, but surely, outpacing the Philippines when it comes to penetrating the large and wealthy Japanese market.

Stock pickers . . .

From page C8

Jitters about accounting irregularities have also kept many investors away from larger companies that have grown mostly through aggressive acquisitions.

Muggia said he's buying shares of consumer and health-related stocks, including Caremark Rx Inc., a pharmacy benefits manager.

The stealthy bull will rattle around in the market's china shop for another 12 to 18 months, fund managers and strategists say.

"This is not a broad-based, everything-goes-down market," said Bob Mitchell, a fund manager with Northern Trust Global Investments. "You have an advantage in companies that are not tied to the corporate cycle."

Mitchell said his firm is adding shares of drug wholesaler Cardinal Health Inc. and health-care products distributor AmerisourceBergen Corp., and avoiding the stock of the world's No. 2 drug-maker Merck & Co. Inc.

Large stocks drag down S&P 500

Large stocks such as Cisco, the No. 1 maker of equipment that helps direct Internet traffic, and top computer software maker Microsoft Corp. have tumbled this year as corporate spending has lagged, even as economic growth has ticked up.

Indeed, business spending on structures, equipment and software fell 5.7 percent in the first quarter, though the economy overall raced ahead at an annual rate of 5.8 percent, according to the Commerce Department's measure of gross domestic product.

GDP's gain came in part from strong consumer spending, and a short-term "inventory swing" as businesses had to start buying again after depleting existing stockpiles.

At the same time, international economies have slowed along with the United States. That can be bad news for huge firms that rely on revenues from overseas. And companies that have complex balance sheets, such as conglomerate General Electric Co. have also suffered after the collapse of energy trader Enron Corp.

"Big stocks are a minefield," said Louis Navellier, who helps manage \$6 billion for Navellier & Associates. To be sure, the share price of smaller-cap companies has already soared, making them expensive relative to earnings.

The S&P 600 index of smaller stocks is selling for 21.8 times 2002 earnings, while the S&P 100 index of the largest stocks, is selling for 20.8 times 2002 earnings. **Reuters**

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THE WATSONS personal store comes to the Philippines



INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto (right) with Mrs. Felicidad Sy



TRADE Secretary Mar Roxas takes a look inside the Watsons store with Henry Sy Sr. and Ian Wade.

WHEN Watsons recently opened two new personal store outlets at the SM Megamall and the Podium, the event formalized its entry to the Philippines through a joint partnership with the SM Group of Companies.

Present during the occasion were AS Watson Group managing director Ian Wade and Watsons Philippines managing director Dennis Casey, SM founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., Mrs. Felicidad Sy, and SM president Tessie Sy-Coson.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, a staunch advocate of retail trade liberalization, was the guest of honor. He was joined by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sy Sr., Sy-Coson, Wade and Casey for the quick tour of the store.

Guests included representatives of the largest suppliers in the health and beauty and pharmaceutical industries such as Johnson & Johnson, L'Oreal, Procter & Gamble, Unilever Philippines, Luxasia, Henkel, and Godiva; as well as those from major pharmaceutical companies like Zuellig, Bristol Myers/Mead Johnson Procter & Gamble, Abbot Lab, and Glaxo.

The new Watson stores will bring to the Philippines the "personal care" concept that Filipinos look forward to when visiting Watsons stores in Asia and Europe. This involves providing brands and service in a combined pharmacy and health and beauty outlet.

The products range from toiletries, cosmetics, medicines, fashion items, food, and toys.

In this joint venture, Watsons Personal Care Store (Philippines) has acquired SM's existing health and beauty and drug stores and will add 15 new outlets in the first year to serve Filipino consumers nationwide.

AS Watson originated more than 160 years ago in the southern Chinese province of



MUTYA Crisostomo of Johnson and Johnson



ZUELLIG'S Mike Becker

Guandong. It began as a small dispensary known for providing free medicines for the poor. In 1841, Britain took possession of Hong Kong, and the dispensary relocated and grew with the new colony.

Under the Watson family, it quickly diversified into the production of aerated water as well as pharmaceutical and retailing operations.

By the turn of the century, AS Watson had developed into a major trading force in Hong Kong and China with more than 100 retailing and dispensing branches.

Interestingly enough, there is a Philippines address in an ASW



(FROM LEFT) SM Inc. president Teresita Sy-Coson, SM Group founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., wife Felicidad Sy and Trade Secretary Mar Roxas



THE PHARMACY at Watsons



(FROM LEFT) Watsons Phils. managing director Dennis Casey, Watson SAVP for operations Grace Rivera and A.S. Watson Group managing director Ian Wade.

antique calendars in Chinese, which translates into No. 14 Bridge Head (Chao Tu in Mandarin), most probably in the Old Manila area. The last time this address appeared was on the 1911 calendar.

Today, AS Watson is an international retail and manufacturing business with operations in 17 countries in Asia and Europe. The Group operates over 1,200 retail stores, owns more than 20

water and juice brands, and employs more than 22,000 staff worldwide.

It operates some of Asia's retail chains including PARKSHOP, Watsons Your Personal Store, Watson's Wine Cellar, and Nuance Watsons.

The newly opened Watsons stores are located at the Second Level of the SM Megamall Mega A and the Second Level of the Podium, both in the Ortigas Center.

'To be number one, compete directly'

From page C1

family's economic interest in the company, I would really play a role at some point or another."

Yet, he admits there is a conscious effort on his part to perform better and prove to everyone that he deserves his new role in the TV network.

"It's not to say that it's making me work harder because I will work as hard as I do regardless of whether I am the son of Duavit or not," he says. "But it is something that I am aware of and it does provide extra drive."

"Being benefited by a management team composed of co-workers who are highly competent and very dedicated in their respective fields is largely an educational process for me. I'm fortunate to work with people who are highly committed to achieving a common goal," he adds.

As an observer and participant, Duavit describes the new GMA management as more aggressive. Lately, the network has been spending a sizable budget not only to produce new programs with powerhouse casting, but also to improve the reach, infrastructure and talent development and training.

"To a great extent, these are very carefully studied and extensively deliberated decisions," Duavit says. "Naturally, it took some time for the necessary changes or internal adjustments to take place before we could implement that particular decision."

"At the end of the day, there's a saying that goes, 'No bet, no win.' So it's really a matter of how educated and well thought-out the bet you put on the table is. In this case, it was clear that becoming number one was impossible unless you compete directly."

Hence, the previous dominant direction of the counter programming was shifted toward a more directly competitive stance. In the primetime block, there is a noticeable migration from anime to dramas.

"In the area of programming, the dominant conclusion was that, to become number one, it was necessary to look at the strength of the competitor in terms of the programs and to squarely compete," Duavit explains.

He feels the bolder move of GMA 7 also comes with the changing times, especially since the viewers' tastes, expectations and preferences have shifted quite dramatically.

"When Gozon took over as president, there were a number of observations made which convinced the present management that becoming number one was possible. While there is a lot of prudence, there is also aggression and it is a very healthy mix that we're observing now," he says.

"Even if the economic climate has been better in the past, it didn't appear to be a hurdle towards any move or drive to become number one. In fact, in certain ways, a number of these ordinarily intimidating realities are actually beneficial to our circumstances. What is being observed now is a manifestation of a

decision made last year," he adds.

Duavit is aware the network's goal is a difficult undertaking, but what makes the load lighter is the strong commitment of everyone.

"It was made very clear to us from the very beginning what becoming number one would entail, so there will be no surprises," Duavit says. "From the start, the condition was it would not be easy. It would be more difficult than it seems, but be prepared."

"GMA is smaller and is presently in the process of establishing the human and other related infrastructure to be able to become number one. In an environment like this, it helps when you are starting from a point growing forward than being a certain size, having to maintain, contain or taper that," he says.

"We developed a blue print last year that was indicative of the kind of fleshing out of the organization that would have to be undertaken to bring us to the point where there is sustainable competitiveness," he adds.

Duavit admires how Gozon inspires everyone to work hard for the network.

"When you have a leader as dynamic and immersed as Gozon, it's a natural thing to exert the same effort or do your part. He is there in every meeting. He initiates meetings even on Saturdays and Sundays. He is an individual who will not expect you to do what he would not himself do," he says. The nature of Duavit's function finds him in virtually every aspect of the network. He says working for the GMA 7 is multi-faceted and a lot broader. He laments, however, that his new job takes away several hours he used to spend with his family. He works from 8 to 12 hours a day and sacrifices even his weekends for emergency meetings.

But the family recently spent a brief holiday in Hawaii, where the Duavits have a small vacation place at Oahu Island, in the suburbs of Honolulu.

Duavit is the second among four kids of Gilberto "Bibi" Duavit and Vilma Roy-Duavit. Eldest and only girl in the brood is Judith, while the two other boys are Joel who is now based in the United States and Jack, who is now a congressman for the 1st District of Rizal (Cainta, Taytay, Angono and Binangonan).

Duavit is married to Rosanna Lopez, daughter of former Manila Mayor Mel Lopez. The couple has been blessed with twin boys—Gilberto Javier and Jaime Rafael—who recently turned 1.

"There's a lot more time I have to spend with my twin boys which the nature of the job prevents," Duavit says.

Wife Rosanna works for the property development arm of her family.

Sunday is family day for the Duavits. They have lunch with his in-laws and dinner with his parents.

When he was younger, Duavit dreamt of becoming the president of the Philippines. Today, however, he says politics is no longer part of his plan. Still, Duavit faces a different but likewise formidable challenge of steering GMA 7 to become number one.

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Again, even if some boards were cheaper, the addition of extra-materials to have the same acoustic effect would make such boards uneconomical to use. With the use of insect repellent additives, termites damage is not a problem. In one combustibility test, it has been proven that wood-based boards burned more quickly while EC Board self-extin-



THE NON-WOOD based board helps preserve the fast-disappearing Philippine forests.

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The use of sugar cane bagasse, aside from earning additional income for our impoverished sugar cane farmers, helps preserve the fast-disappearing Philippine forests. And that's why every EC Board that comes out from the factory is an environment conservation contribution by all the members of EMI family.

The sheets are available in 4' x 8' sheets with thickness of 6mm, 9mm, 12mm, 15mm and 18mm. For inquiry, call telefax 741-2175 or 413-6895.

Sun Life Prosperity Funds: Making Growth a Tradition

The Sun Life Prosperity Funds, a unique family of mutual funds offered by Sun Life Financial, more than doubled its pace of growth on its second year in the Philippine market.

As of April 30, Sun Life Asset Management Co., Inc. (SLAMC), fund manager and principal distributor of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, had P1.8 billion in total assets under management, a 171% growth year-on-year.

Only two years old, the Sun Life Prosperity Funds, consisting of the Sun Life Prosperity Bond Fund, the Sun Life Prosperity Philippine Equity Fund, and the Sun Life Prosperity Balanced Fund, now ranks as the third largest in the Philippine mutual fund industry.

Considering the generally low level of awareness about mutual funds in the country, breaching the P1 billion-mark in total assets under management in its first two years of operations can be rightfully considered a major milestone for the Sun Life Prosperity Funds.

SLAMC president Rolando Robles believes their early success in establishing the Sun Life Prosperity Funds as a major player in the industry can be attributed to team effort. "The employees of SLAMC as well as the licensed investment solicitors acted as one to propagate the merits of mutual fund investing, thus contributing to the initial success achieved by the company," he said.

It is interesting to note that although the number of new accounts continuously increased on its second year, the bulk of the increase in total assets under management can be traced to subsequent investments of existing clients. "Many of them, after seeing favorable results in their investments, realized the merits of mutual funds as a worthy investment vehicle. Hence, they added to their portfolio and transferred more of their investments from other vehicles to the Sun Life Prosperity Funds," said Robles.

While the last year was marked by certain destabilizing

sociopolitical events such as unabated kidnappings in Southern Philippines and the Sept. 11 world tragedy, Robles said the SLAMC team managed to remain focused on their strategy for growth.

"Investors will always react to events that affect the local and global economic environment. Market conditions will dictate the investment vehicle of choice in a given cycle. Our advantage is that whichever way the economy goes, the Sun Life Prosperity Funds has an investment vehicle that will suit the needs of long-term investors," Robles explained.

Mutual funds cater to a broad range of investors. Each type of fund - bond, equity or balanced - and its various combinations can form an investment portfolio that satisfies the long-term financial goals of different investors.

Regular savers who are preparing for their future can benefit from the potentially higher long-term gains from mutual funds.

Individuals as well as institutions with large investment funds benefit from the diversification and return enhancement that mutual funds can offer.

In its first two years, the Sun Life Prosperity Bond Fund has been the best selling mutual fund of SLAMC. "This reflects the current sentiment of local investors - a strong bias for capital preservation while making their money earn. In a sense it also shows that the investing public still needs to be comfortable with higher risk but higher return investments like the Sun Life Prosperity Balanced and Philippine Equity Funds," Robles said.

While local investors remain cautious with their funds, Robles believes there will be more people who will consider equity investments in their portfolio "as the economy improves and the stock market goes into a bullish cycle."

Going forward, investors will be happy to know that Sun Life Prosperity Funds will soon introduce a new

member of the family, the Sun Life Prosperity Dollar Advantage Fund, "in line with (the Sun Life) commitment to provide solutions to the various investment needs of the Filipinos."

Sun Life Prosperity Funds can be purchased through more than 250 licensed investment solicitors who can help every investor craft a viable investment and risk protection program that is tailored and responsive to the investor's needs. Robles promises to further increase the number of licensed investment solicitors to make the Sun Life Prosperity Funds even more accessible to the investing public.

With such focus and determination, Sun Life Prosperity Funds can be expected to make a consistent tradition out of its increasingly admirable year-on-year growth.

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BUSINESSMonday

Learning, talking and now doing business



DRILON (3rd from left) and her team in her new assignment.

WHEN Ces Oreña-Drilon went into journalism, she envisioned herself to be like CNN reporter Christian Amanpour—covering conflicts and getting dangerous assignments.

But as fate would have it, the wars and conflicts she covered were in the corporate boardrooms.

"In 1992, Rod Reyes and Boo Chanco (ABS-CBN officials) wanted to strengthen our business coverage and since I was doing special reports, I was thrown into business coverages," says Drilon, a veteran broadcast journalist of ABS-CBN.

She was made an anchor of the three-minute Money Matters segment of Channel

2's evening news report, The World Tonight.

Because of this she acquired the image of being the business news expert. "Whenever I go out on coverage, people thought I was a walking encyclopedia on business so I decided I better learn economics," she says.



PERSONAL FINANCE

She immersed herself in business news coverage and acquired thoughts of going into business. She got her chance when she was invited to a ribbon cutting of a franchising convention.

Potato Corner caught her interest and she entered into a joint venture to get a franchise. Her stall is in the Ever mall in Ortigas.

Drilon says covering business news made

her aware of business opportunities and the freedom a business can give.

"I wanted to go into business because it will give me financial independence and a fallback," she says.

Money Matters

Recently Drilon also went into the magazine news stand business with her "mag:net" stand at the SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa, Manila. She will open another one at the Loop 9501, the ground floor of the new ABS-CBN building that was converted into a mini-mall.

When the World Tonight was reformatting, Drilon also lost Money Matters. But having been exposed to business news, Drilon says she realized there was a hunger for such. She proposed to her management, Usapang Business, a weekly show featuring different businesses in the country.

The show was on air for three years before it was canned.

"Usapang Business died because it had no advertising support. But it had viewership and there was a clamor to bring it back," Drilon says.

The show lasted three years but it was enough to inspire many viewers.

Drilon says she cannot forget an overseas Filipino worker in the Middle East who, after seeing a segment in Usapang Business, decided to come home, borrowed from the Marikina Shoe Cooperative, and set up his own backyard slipper making business.

After Usapang Business, she was given Pipol, a weekly feature on various personalities.

Recently, she was named ABS-CBN's director for the business group.

"My team's job will be to provide business content to all our news programs," she says.

The content will be similar to the stories that come out in the INQUIRER's business features sections—features on small to medium scale entrepreneurs, successful businessmen, how-tos.

Good news sells

"We want to show that good news sells, that we are up to the challenge to have a developmental approach in media," Drilon says.

In the print media, the INQUIRER pioneered business features which has proven to be very popular. It started with Business Monday which focuses on top executives, their management styles, new trends in business; and occasionally carried 'Personal Finance' which gives pointers on how to manage your money. It was expanded to Business Friday which is a marketing and advertising section; and SundayBiz which features entrepreneurs all over the country and is a weekend read for executives.

Drilon says she fully understands the need for such features because the main problem facing Filipinos is money—the lack of it.

Drilon says the business contents will be featured in all of the station's news and features programs starting May 13.

She says there will be inspiring business stories and "infomercials" which will feature successful entrepreneurs.

Drilon and her team conceptualized the various segments and sold for sponsorship to companies that include Planters Development Bank, San Miguel Corp., HSBC and WG & A.

Margie Quimpo-Espino

Stock pickers can ride 'stealth bull' in 2002

NEW YORK—Bulls are not known as quiet creatures, so most investors would be surprised to learn a "stealth bull" is on the loose in the stock market.

Savvy market watchers note there are more stocks gaining than falling in the benchmark Standard & Poor's 500 index, even though the index has slid for two straight years and is down again this year.

That's because the dismal performance of large stocks such as Cisco Systems Inc. yank down the market-weighted index, even as stocks of small and mid-sized companies outperform.

At the same time, the average stock in the S&P 500 was up about 4 percent in the first quarter, even as the overall index lost 0.06 percent, according to S&P. Again, this is because large stocks, which have fallen sharply, have an inordinate impact on the index.

"The public is fixated on the large-cap averages, but underneath them, the market is actually pretty good," said Will Muggia, manager of the Touchstone Emerging Growth Fund. "Now we're in a stealthy bull market. Index funds will see sub-par returns over the next five years, but the average stock may return 10 percent to 12 percent over a year."

For the first three months of the year, 346 companies in the S&P 500 rose for every 154 that fell. The current situation is almost the flip side of the bull market's top in 1999, when investors saw about 256 shares drop for 241 that rose, but the S&P 500 soared 19.5 percent.

Follow the advance-decline line

The key indicator of market breadth is called the advance-decline line. It has risen as investors like Muggia flock to shares of small firms that are not hurt by a downturn in corporate spending or sluggish international economies.

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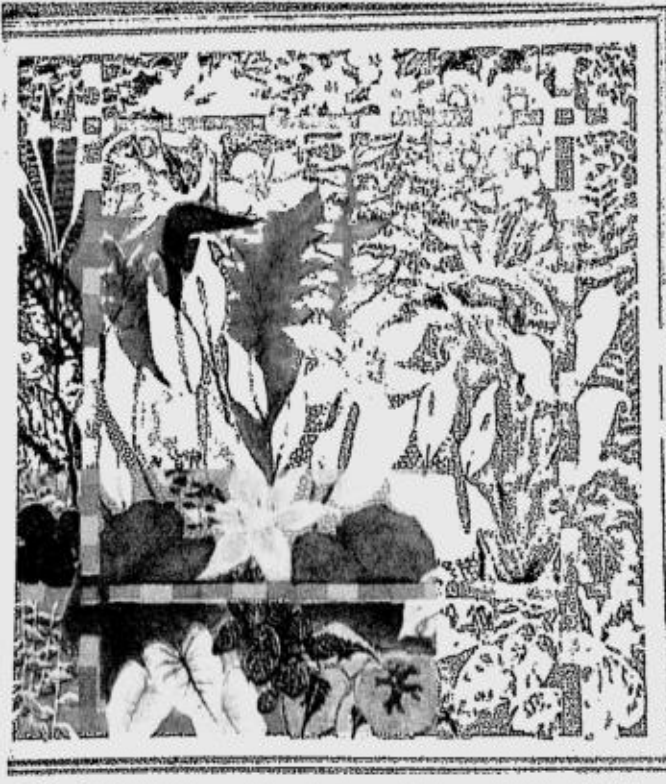
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AMBASSADOR Mohamed Taufik before a huge painting that sits in his living room.



ONE of M. Taufik's acrylic paintings which are displayed in his living room; this one took him five months to finish.



AN ABSTRACT work the envoy did in 1998, the year he picked up the paintbrush again after a 20-year break.

Diplomacy through the arts

By James P. Ong
Photos by Roger Margallo

Malaysian
envoy M.
Taufik has
a passion
for art
collecting
and
painting

WHEN Mohamed Taufik Mohamed Noor became Malaysia's new ambassador in Manila late last year, one of the first things he brought was a shipment of over a hundred paintings. That and seven pet Bantam chickens that have now multiplied to 18.

The 50-year-old diplomat loves art—and little critters—and in his current residence in Makati, the noticeable accents in the living room are not batik prints but neatly hanged brightly colored paintings.

He did most of the paintings, which portray tulips and a menage of other foliage that remind him of the mini garden in his Kuala Lumpur home.

The four guestrooms on the second floor hold works either unframed or waiting to be hanged. Some of the pieces were done by Vietnamese, Peruvian and, of course, Malaysian artists, including a 1969 work by top senior artist Cheong Lai Tong, which the ambassador said he found "lying around" in the residence.

"I hang paintings at random, but after every six months I want to change them," says M. Taufik.

The Malaysian ambassador picked up the paintbrush again in 1998 after a 20-year break. He is entirely self-taught, although he remembers his high school teachers telling him he could be an artist. "But I didn't take them seriously," he says.

Instead, he went to the University of London and, with an honors degree in commerce, embarked on a diplomatic career that has brought him to Belgium, Brunei and the United Arab Emirates.

But he remained an ardent supporter of the arts.

Penang childhood

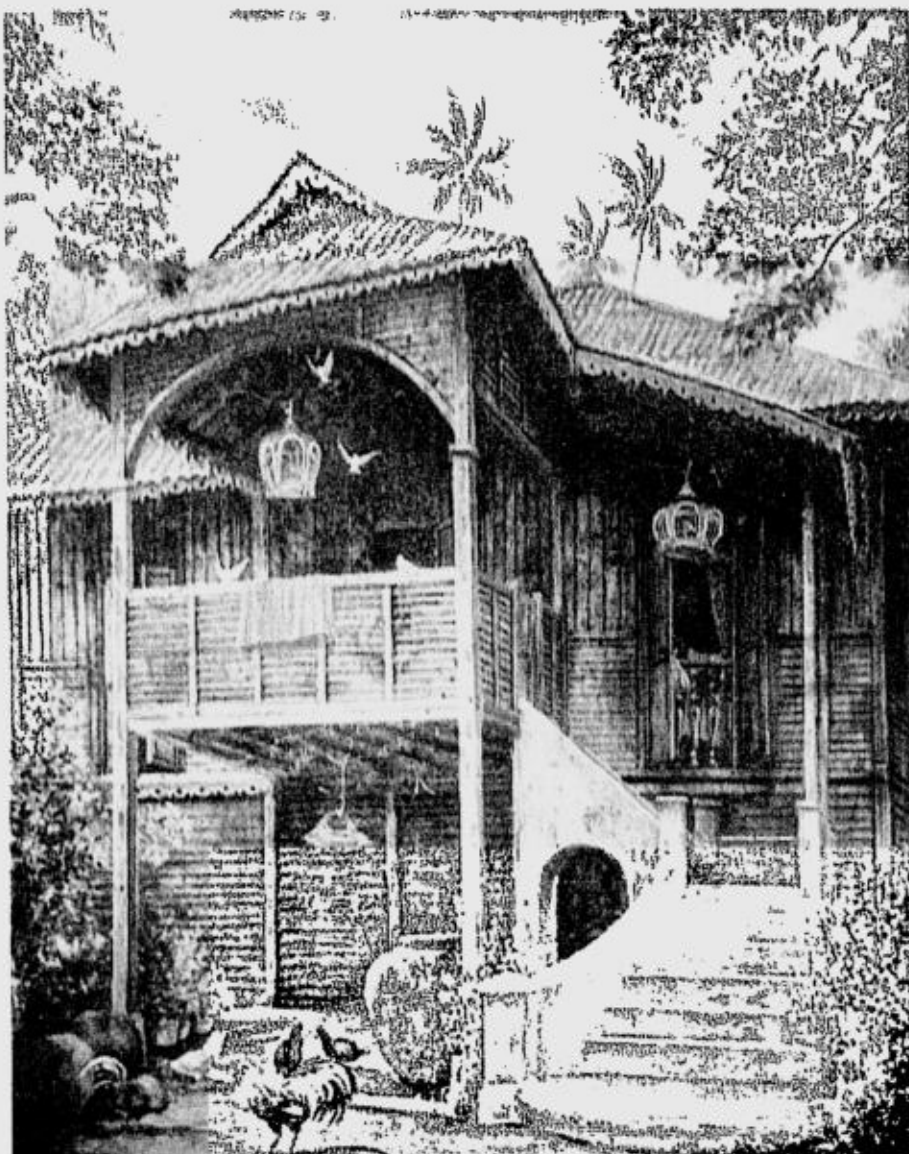
He was influenced by the arts much earlier in life. M. Taufik was born and raised in Butterworth, a small island across the channel from Georgetown, the capital of Penang in eastern Malaysia. It is the oldest British settlement in the country.

His father was a soldier, a teacher and a community leader, while his mother was a homemaker. "I remember when we were in school we would attend several performances. There were cultural exchanges—the Americans arranged for musical quartets and the Japanese also.

"And when I was in KL, I would go to the Alliance Française to see the French film festivals. It's enriching to know what other people have in their culture. It's part of cultural diplomacy," he says.

In Manila, he tries to attend art shows and performances although "because of my commitments I cannot go to as many as I want."

So far, he's seen a Philippine Ballet Theater event featuring Asean choreographers, a travelling exhibit by contemporary Filipino painters with Malaysian Willy Valentine as curator, and "Resonances," Rock Drilon's recent show in SM Megamall.



OIL on canvas, 2000. M. Taufik commissioned Malaysian artist Lee Weng Fatt to paint his pet Bantam chickens, which he brought to Manila. Below is another Lee painting of the chickens.

In a recent trip to Subic, he bought two small paintings by a Filipino artist, which now hang in his office at the embassy.

Local painters

The ambassador is eager to know what local artists are doing, and makes it a point to visit galleries during weekends if he cannot attend a show opening.

"I like to be alone when I'm in a gallery so I can sit or stand and absorb the work," he says. "I try to learn from the artists—their composition, their color, their style... I enjoy looking especially at abstracts because they make you think. You try to read the mind of the artist. You may be wrong, but you can always interpret it. That's the good thing about abstract."

He doesn't have any preference as a collector "but if I like it I will buy... I find the works here affordable. It's worth the money." Some of the artworks in his house are gifts. "My friends know what I like, they always buy me a piece of art."

Although he is partial to bright orange, green and yellow in his own works, M.



Forgotten district showcased at Met Museum

THE METROPOLITAN Museum of Manila presents "Quiapo: The Arts of a City District." The exhibit will open at the museum's Tall Galleries on May 9, 6:30 p.m. It will feature paintings, sculpture, human hair embroidery, photographs and other artworks from or about Quiapo, an area once known for its many statutory shops and ateliers.

Highlights include religious objects associated with the Black Nazarene, 19th-century portraits, cityscapes, as well as pieces deriving from the Quiapo Mosque.

A lecture and forum on "Urban Renewal and Urban Heritage Issues" will be conducted on May 13, 2-5 p.m., at the museum's auditorium. Call 523-7855.

Al Perez and other Bulacan landscape artists at café exhibit

Café Pulilan presents "PULILandscape II," a group exhibit featuring five of Bulacan's most noted living landscape artists: Danny Pangan, Al Perez, Cris Velasco, Ernie Velasquez and Tats Villanueva.

The exhibit illustrates the simple yet fulfilling life in the country that harks back to its essential beliefs and attitudes on faith, living and culture. The artworks exemplify the rural ideal originally presented by masters like Fabian dela Rosa and Fernando Amorsolo, underscoring the relationship between the people

and the land, and highlighting simple virtues like hard work, faith and conservation of the environment.

The works of the participating artists, most well-known and senior landscapists of the towns of Malolos and Baliuag, feature the old houses and rural landscapes that make Bulacan a popular tourist destination.

The exhibit opens on May 11, 5 p.m., and will run until June 29. Café Pulilan is on 365 San Francisco St., Poblacion, Pulilan, Bulacan. Call (044) 910-1018 or (0917) 617-5387.

Bali hosts Asean Art Awards

FORTY of Southeast Asia's most visually challenging and inspiring contemporary artworks will compete in the finals of the Asean Art Awards 2002 from May 7-9 in Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia.

The artworks are the winners in national competitions in member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean): Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar.

The grand prize winner will receive \$15,000. Each of the five Asean Juror's Choice Award recipient will get \$5,000.

Representing the Philippines this year are Ramiro M. Abayon ("Los Pintados"), Melvin John B.

Ante ("Recycle of Life"), Benjamin Dayrit Elyda III ("Valorized and Commodified Curio"), John Frank Sabado ("Windows of Souls") and Ronaldo C. Ventura ("Fall of the Hero and the Saint"). They were selected from the winners of the Philippine Art Awards organized by the Ayala Museum and Philip Morris Phils.

The Asean Art Awards was established in 1994 in Singapore. Previous Asean Art Awards finals were held in Singapore, Jakarta, Bangkok, Manila, Hanoi and Kuala Lumpur. The awards are sponsored by the Philip Morris Group of Co. It is endorsed by the Asean Secretariat, and supported by 33 national art institutions throughout the region.

Taufik "admires" the monochromes and muted colors used by Drilon in "Resonances."

He is also drawn to the figurative works of Bacolod artist Nunelucio Alvarado and the glass sculptures of Ramon Orlina, "but I know they're very expensive. I know him so I hope he can give me a good discount," he jokes. (Orlina is married to a Malaysian—Ed.)

Filipino painter Mario de Rivera, known for his beautifully haunting and surreal works, is a good friend.

Hectic schedule

Since his posting in Manila, M. Taufik has only finished three pieces partly because of his mood, but mostly because of the demands of his work.

Just how busy is he? Within 24 hours of his first day in Manila in November, he had to deal with the arrest of ex-ARMM governor Nur Misuari in Malaysia. On the week we visited him, he was busy preparing for the visit of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to Malaysia tomorrow.

The ambassador started with oil as medium in 1998, but shifted to acrylic "because it's easier for me to handle. Basically I'm a very impatient person."

He doesn't restrict himself to canvas. A fruit series was done on tiles. It took him half an hour to finish each. "There's always a meaning to what I paint," he says.

He plans to organize an art exhibit of Malaysian artists.

The Malaysian embassy is also embarking on a partnership with a local dance group.

"We are discussing this with one of the universities in Manila. What we would like to do is establish a dance troupe of Filipino dancers [that will] perform mainly Malaysian dance and also Filipino dance," he says. Similar projects have been launched by Malaysian embassies Tokyo, UAE and London, among others.

He is waiting for the go signal from his country's Ministry of Tourism, but he wants the program ready before the Malaysian National Day in August.

M. Taufik says he wants the troupe to perform once a month and be available for private functions. The embassy will shoulder the troupe's expenses and give the dancers monthly allowances.

Wisdom in conservation

He hasn't been around Metro Manila much, but he finds intramuros very interesting. "I also like the Old Manila where the streets are very narrow, where there are shophouses. I think they're very Asian," he says.

M. Taufik knows a lot about preserving historical places, having grown up in Penang which, as one popular guidebook notes, makes you feel "like the clock stopped 50 years ago."

"In Penang, we have a strong conservation movement. We are trying to bid to be one of the Unesco World Heritage Sites," he explains.

On the wisdom of conservation, he says much depends on how much money a country has. "I know it costs a lot, but if you can preserve an area, and if you are promoting tourism, it's best to preserve whatever you have," he says.

Mother-and-Child works at Ad Infinitum

AD INFINITUM Gallery pays homage to love and life in its exhibition of a vast collection of Mother-and-Child works, May 8-22. On display are the works of Hermes Alegre, Donna Vallar-Basa, Anton Balao, Andri Cubi, Egal Fernandez, Gene Gonzales, Linda Lupton, Tony Nunez, Romulo Olazo, Ramoncito Racho, Tres Roman, Dominic Rubio, Jef and Marvin Samonte and Gino Carlo Tioseco. The varied compositions and settings resemble a compilation of short stories, each bearing an individual stamp. Ad Infinitum is at 190 F. Blumentritt St., San Juan City, Metro Manila. Call 726-9015 or 724-3032.

Holy Rosary Seminary, mounted the exhibit, which featured photos by Dr. Bob Mendoza, Dohep Guidote, Dr. Steve Sla, Connie Leonor, Jerome Palma, Jun Pasa, Cesar Villegas, Nhong Quejada and Glenn Peralta. The photos will be included in a coffee-table book of the same title to be launched on Sept. 19, before the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia. The exhibit ends May 31.

'SUMMER PANORAMA' AT GALERIA DE NAVA. Galeria de Nava provides a soothing treat with

MOTHER/ p.D6

FAITH IN BICOL. Fr. Wilmer Tria is project director of photo exhibit at Filipinas Heritage Library.

TREASURES' AT AYALA. The Ayala Museum in the old Makati Stock Exchange Building holds

"Treasures at Ayala," which features some of the museum's finest pieces from its archaeological, ethnographic and fine arts collections representing distinct historical epochs spanning prehistory to the present. Among those exhibited are rare 19th century albums from Jose Honorato Lozano and the atelier of Damian Domingo, Ivory sculptures by Leoncio Asuncion and paintings by Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel. Also included are excellent examples of stone tools, artifacts from the Cordilleras and Mindanao, and jewelry from the Spanish colonial period. The exhibit runs until July 31. Call 812-1191 to 95 local 103.

PEÑAFRANCIA PHOTOS AT FILIPINAS HERITAGE LIBRARY. The exhibit "Ina and the Bikol People: A Journey of Faith" opened May 3 at the Filipinas Heritage Library. Bishop Sofio Balce, Milla Drillon, wife of the Senate president; and Gina de Venecia, wife of the House speaker, cut the ceremonial ribbon. Fr. Wilmer Tria, vice rector of Naga City's



'MOTHER and Child' by Hermes Alegre at Ad Infinitum



'MOTHER and Child' by Egal Fernandez



'HOLY Family' by Angelito Antonio at Ad Infinitum

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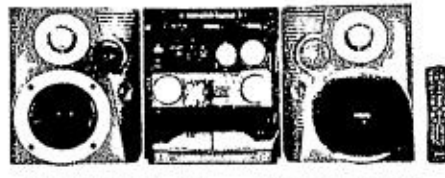
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IDA—AN IRONY VICTIMIZING WOMEN BY THE BILLIONS

Micronutrient deficiency is a disorder that has victimized 2 billion people, or roughly a third of the human race. The most common of which is Iron Deficiency Anemia or IDA, the lack of iron in the body. The irony is that iron is one of the most abundant elements on the planet. And yet the figures of IDA victims are staggering, not to mention that most of them are women.

The latest national survey in the Philippines conducted by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Department of Science and Technology reported the prevalence of anemia at 50.3% and 45.7% for pregnant and lactating women respectively, about 56.6% for infants, 33.2% for female adolescents and 44.2% for the elderly. The national prevalence rate is 30.6%.

Another alarming fact is a report from The Nutritionist-Dieticians' Association of the Philippines stating that 6 million out of 8.8 million women in the reproductive age group of 15 to 49 years old are at high risk of IDA.

What Is IDA and Why Women Are At Risk
Just as the name implies, Iron Deficiency Anemia occurs when there is insufficient supply of iron in

the body. As a result, the amount of hemoglobin or red blood cells in the blood becomes low. Lack of iron in the blood leads to lack of circulating oxygen. This means less oxygen will be available for cells to produce energy, thus causing severe fatigue. And, fatigue is just the tip of the IDA iceberg as it has more life-threatening effects.

There are common causes of IDA like low iron content in one's diet and lack of vitamins and other minerals plus protein in the body to absorb iron. But the most common cause of IDA—which explains why women are mostly affected—is blood loss due to menstruation. That is aside from the fact that women have less iron stores in the body (about 200 mg) compared with that of men (about 1000 mg). With a total amount of about 2.5 to 3.5 g of iron needed by the body to be healthy, a woman's iron stores are inadequate to cover the greater demands of infancy (there is little iron in milk), adolescence (blood loss during menstruation) and pregnancy (where a mom's blood is needed also by the baby). And what's very alarming is that low, and in some cases depleted iron stores in the blood, takes time to be replenished.

IDA During Adolescence and Pregnancy
The threat of IDA starts at adolescence and is carried through pregnancy.

The Journal of The Nutritionists-Dieticians' Association of the Philippines reports that adolescent girls, because of the growth spurt and onset of menstruation which correspondingly increase their iron requirements are vulnerable to IDA. Women who conceive during or shortly after the adolescence are likely to enter pregnancy with low or depleted iron stores or IDA. The report also warns that IDA during pregnancy is associated with significant morbidity for both mothers and infants.

A study by the American Society for Clinical Nutrition found out that many women in developing countries including the Philippines are already anemic or have low iron stores before they get pregnant. These women will probably also be or become anemic soon after the iron requirements increase toward the end of the first trimester of pregnancy, and iron supplementation, which is normally taken during the later pregnancy stages, is then too late.

IDA Symptoms and Effects
Generally, IDA can easily be identified through the

following symptoms:

- Pale skin color
- Easy fatigability
- Dizziness
- Irritability
- Weakness
- Shortness of breath
- Decreased appetite
- Impaired heat production
- Poor concentration
- Poor resistance against infection

For women, easy fatigability, poor concentration, and reduced work performance, can all be felt when the iron stores are low, even if it's not yet IDA. Another caveat is that there are no symptoms if the iron deficiency is mild, so more often than not, IDA is left undetected.

Though parts of the body may indicate tell-tale signs of IDA like pale tongue, lower eyelids or nailbeds, a blood test administered by a medical technologist is still the best way to detect the beginning of IDA.

Undetected low iron stores eventually leads to IDA, which, when left without any effort to replenish lost iron and to maintain adequate iron stores, has serious consequences.

One is reduced work capacity and productivity, since iron is needed by the blood to produce energy, increase metabolism and get the muscles going.

Another is reduced intellectual capacity, since oxygen is needed by the brain to normally function, and the lesser the iron in the blood, the lesser oxygen will be carried to the brain.

Premature uterine contractions during pregnancy and a greater risk of death during pregnancy are also effects of IDA.

Even babies by women suffering from IDA are not spared from its ill effects. They tend to have low birth weight, have poor mental and psychomotor development, as well as losses in IQ points. In some cases, IDA also results to stillbirth, since a baby needs oxygen through a mom's blood from its inception.

Reduced resistance from serious infections, as well as an impairment for the body's ability to monitor and regulate temperature are also caused by IDA.

With these effects on women, IDA is indeed costly. And here lies another irony, because its prevention is cost efficient.

IRONING OUT IDA

Q&A WITH VITAMIN EXPERT DR. MANUEL MACAPINLAC

Manuel Macapinlac, M.D., Ph.D. is a renowned Vitamin Expert in the Philippines. He is currently Professor from the University of the Philippines College of Medicine and from De La Salle University Health and Sciences Center. He uniquely holds both an M.D. and a Ph.D. degree in Nutritional Biochemistry.

DR. MACAPINLAC ON IDA:

What is Iron and why is it important?
Iron is a mineral that the body needs to produce red blood cells. When the body does not get enough iron, it cannot produce the number of normal red blood cells needed to keep you in good health.

Iron is important because it is used in many critical metabolic functions like transport of oxygen to the various tissues and in the oxidation of numerous compounds including those that generate energy.

What Is Iron Deficiency Anemia?
Iron deficiency anemia is a condition in which blood is low on healthy red blood cells, which carry oxygen to tissues. Oxygenated blood gives your body energy and your skin a healthy color.

IDA is a global nutritional problem and the most widespread of all nutritional deficiencies. In the Philippines, 50% of pregnant women are affected.

What are the signs and symptoms of IDA?
In general, anemia causes fatigue, paleness of the skin, weakness, shortness of breath with only mild exertion, dizziness.

Initially, iron deficiency anemia can be so mild as to go unnoticed. But as the body becomes more deficient in iron and anemia progresses, signs and symptoms increase.

What are the causes of IDA?
Iron deficiency leads to anemia when the body lacks sufficient iron to make adequate hemoglobin. Causes of iron deficiency anemia include:

• **Blood loss.** Blood contains iron within red blood cells. If you lose blood, you lose some iron. Women with heavy periods who lose a lot of blood during menstruation are at risk of iron deficiency anemia.

• **A lack of iron in your diet.** Your body regularly gets iron from the foods you eat. Examples of iron-rich foods include meat, eggs and whole-grain or iron-fortified foods. Eating too little iron in your diet over time can cause a deficiency in iron.

• **Pregnancy.** Without iron supplementation, iron deficiency anemia occurs in virtually all pregnant women because their iron stores need to serve the increased blood volume of the mother as well as be a source of hemoglobin for the growing fetus. A fetus needs iron to develop red blood cells, blood vessels and muscle.

Who are at risk?
Women in general are at greater risk of iron deficiency anemia because their bodies store less iron than men's and because they lose blood each month during menstruation. Children need extra iron during growth spurts, because iron is also important for muscle development.

What are the consequences of IDA?
Mild iron deficiency anemia usually doesn't cause complications. However, left untreated, iron deficiency anemia can become severe and lead to health problems.

In pregnant women, severe iron deficiency anemia has been linked to premature births and low-birth-weight babies. In infants and children, severe iron deficiency can lead to irreversible damage in cognitive development.

How can IDA be prevented?
You can help prevent iron deficiency anemia by eating foods rich in iron, as part of a balanced diet. Eating plenty of iron-containing foods is particularly important for people who have high iron requirements, such as children and menstruating or pregnant women.

You can enhance your body's absorption of iron by drinking citrus juice when you eat an iron-containing food. Vitamin C in citrus juices, like orange juice, helps your body better absorb dietary iron from animals and plants.

Once you become deficient in iron to the point you develop anemia, increased intake of iron-rich foods is beneficial but won't be enough to correct the problem. Iron supplementation is always required. You need supplements to build back your iron reserves, as well as meet your body's daily iron requirements.



Maaaring siya lang ang ligtas sa IDA.



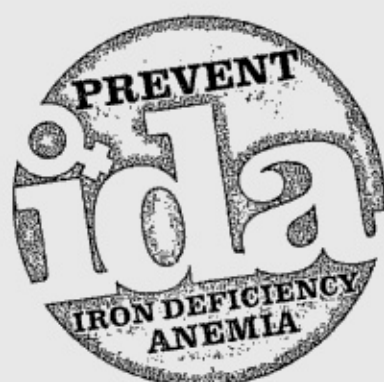
Ang mga babaeng nasa menstrual age ay maaaring maging biktima ng Iron Deficiency Anemia o IDA. Dahil tuwing sila'y nagkakaroon, sila'y nawawalán din ng iron. At ang nawalang iron ay matagal mapalitan.

Dapat regular na may iron sa katawan para hindi magkulang ang supply nito.

Ipinakikilala ang Femina, ang once-a-week iron-folic acid supplement na tumutulong ibalik ang nawalang iron at ipapanatiling sapat ang supply nito sa dugo para tuluyang makaiwas sa IDA.



Ferrous Sulfate - Folic Acid Femina Once-a-week prevention for IDA.



Lahat ng babaeng dinadatnan buwan-buwan ay maaaring maging biktima ng Iron Deficiency Anemia o IDA. Siguraduhing may sapat na iron ang inyong dugo para maiwasan ang IDA.

Femina

Once-a-week prevention for IDA.

DR. MACAPINLAC ON IDA PREVENTION:

FEMINA—FOR TODAY'S IRON WOMEN

What are the roles of iron and folic acid in the body?

The major function of iron in the body is to serve as the oxygen-carrier of hemoglobin and the oxygen is delivered and released to the various tissues where it is utilized for oxidations which result in the liberation of energy. Iron is also an electron carrier in oxidation-reduction reactions that are important in the function of many enzymes. Folic acid is important in the replication of cells including those of the cells of the bone marrow which are responsible for the formation of blood cells. The maturation of red blood cells specifically requires folate activity.

Where do we source iron and folic acid?

Iron is abundant in liver (which serves as storage for iron) and heme-containing tissues (blood and muscles). The iron from these animal tissues is relatively more readily absorbable compared to other iron sources. Iron is also found in vegetables and cereals where the iron is largely inorganic in form and is poorly absorbable. Folate is found largely in leafy vegetables. Animal tissues are not good sources because the vitamin is not stored in them.

What is Iron Banking?

Building up and replenishing lost body iron stores to ensure sustained, adequate iron reserves through regular, weekly supplementation.

Why do you need an iron-folic acid supplement?

Iron and folic acid are both known to be widely deficient in many population groups. Deficiency of either nutrient has deleterious effect on red blood cells. They fail to mature in folate deficiency: the red cells may remain nucleated and are bigger than normal size. In iron deficiency, red cells lack hemoglobin and are smaller than normal cells. Recently, folate deficiency has also been shown to cause neural tube defects in babies born from folate deficient mothers. One might just as well try to prevent both anemia and neural tube defects at the same time.

What should be the dosage of the supplement?

In a number of studies 60 mg elemental iron and 3.5 mg of folate have been shown to be effective in improving the hematologic status of menstruating women as well as in pregnant women when given weekly for several weeks.

Why start early with supplementation?

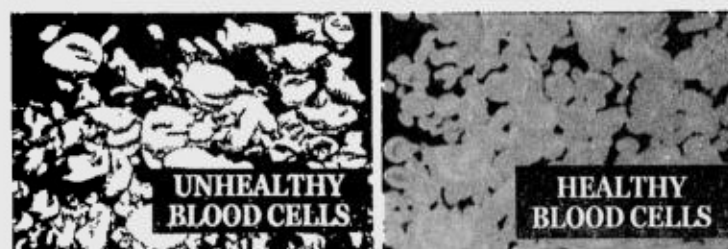
Iron absorption is low even when given as pharmaceutical iron (ca. 10% of the dose). In a woman who is menstruating, the iron supplementation must start, if possible, when menstruation is established. This will help replace the iron lost periodically monthly. It is also important to build her iron stores in order to meet iron requirements in pregnancy. Body iron stores amounting to 500 mgs are required to support the iron needs of pregnancy. To build up this amount of body iron would require several months of iron supplementation at a weekly dose of 60 mg iron.

The number of victims and effects of this global nutritional problem called Iron Deficiency Anemia or IDA speak for themselves. Thankfully, doctors and health professionals have also spoken that awareness and prevention can help today's women fight and win against IDA.

United Laboratories, Inc., the country's leading pharmaceutical company, has recognized the threat of IDA as early as 1998. Together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Department of Health's Nutrition Service Division, UNILAB embarked on a study in three (3) areas of Pangasinan to promote weekly iron supplementation as a preventive measure against IDA.

The result is Femina, a breakthrough, once-a-week iron-folic acid supplement especially formulated for women of reproductive age. The combination of iron and folic acid—two major nutrients that aid in production of healthy blood cells—works synergistically to prevent IDA.

Femina is also formulated as a weekly supplement, unlike other iron supplements. This means that the iron and folic acid in the amounts needed by the body are absorbed better, not to mention that iron overload and toxicity are prevented. Field and clinical trials comparing weekly with daily intake in many groups of individuals have demonstrated the efficacy of weekly iron supplementation in improving iron nutrition. If Femina, with a 60 mg elemental iron content and 3.5 mg of folic acid, is taken weekly on a regular basis, lost iron stores are not only replenished but a woman will



have enough iron stored for her future needs—a vital element in preventing IDA.

In an interview with vitamin expert Dr. Manuel Macapinlac, he cited the following advantages of a once-a-week iron-folic acid supplement:

- Better absorption
- Lesser side effects
- Better compliance
- Cost effective
- More suitable for building up and restoring body iron stores (iron banking) in the prevention of IDA.

Femina, because of its weekly dosage, is also the most cost efficient iron-folic acid supplement. Unlike other iron supplements costing around P10 to P12 per tablet and needs to be taken daily, Femina costs only P7.00 per tablet. Thus, all a woman needs to spend is P1.00 a day, a very small price to pay to be an iron woman—healthy and safe from IDA.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON FEMINA

What is Femina?

Femina is a breakthrough, once a week iron-folic acid supplement especially formulated for women of reproductive age.

What is Femina's formulation?

Femina contains 60 mg of Elemental Iron, equivalent to 187 mg of Ferrous Sulfate, and 3.5 mg of Folic Acid.

What is the difference between Ferrous Sulfate and the other iron salts?

Ferrous Sulfate is the most absorbable form of iron because it is the most soluble.

What is the rationale behind the "once a week" intake?

Field and clinical trials comparing weekly with daily intake in many groups of individuals have demonstrated the efficacy of weekly iron supplementation in improving iron nutrition. The rationale for using weekly iron doses is that the cumulative daily dose rapidly reduced the intestinal absorption of subsequent doses as well as that of dietary iron. The weekly dose schedule is not only a convenient unit of time, but also allows intestinal mucosal cells to turn over in humans before the next dose is provided. Thus, by administering a supplementary dose every seven days, cells loaded with iron from a previous dose will have been shed.

What are the advantages of weekly supplementation?

- Better absorption
- Lesser side effects
- Better compliance
- Cost effective
- More suitable for widespread programs of "preventive supplementation" for building up and restoring body iron stores (iron banking) in the prevention of IDA.

Who should take Femina?

All women of menstruating age who are not pregnant should take Femina weekly.

When should I take Femina?

Absorption is most complete when Femina is taken on an empty stomach. However, iron may cause stomach upset so you may wish to take it with food. You should be aware that food (particularly dairy products, eggs, whole grains and cereals) may reduce iron absorption by 30 - 50%. For more information, speak to your health care professional.

What are the benefits of taking Femina?

- If continued for a significant period of time, ensures the building up of iron stores which is particularly important in women when they become pregnant.
- Prevention of side effects of daily iron administration

How is Femina different from other iron supplements?

It's a once a week preparation containing 60 mg which is not expected to produce significant side effects and it has folate.

How well is iron in Femina absorbed?

The rate of absorption generally is influenced by the amount of iron stores present in the body. The lower the body stores iron, the more iron is absorbed.

How do I know if Femina is safe?

There have been numerous studies on what doses of iron (in the amount of Femina) is established not to be toxic. Side effects are lesser with once-a-week supplementation when compared to daily dosing.

How many tablets of Femina do I need to take, and when should I take them?

One tablet once-a-week, best absorbed on an empty stomach, unless one suffers from gastric irritation.

Where is Femina available and how much?

Femina is sold in drugstores nationwide and is priced at only P7.00 per tablet. The average price of most iron brands is P10-12.00 per tablet.

What happens if I take Femina more than once a week?

According to the National Institute of Medicine, the Lowest Observed Adverse Effect level (LOAEL) is 60 mg/day (elemental iron). There is no danger of toxicity if it's taken more than once a week but it is recommended to follow the prescribed dosing to ensure better absorption and minimize side effects.

Why should a woman take Femina?

Because Femina is a woman's lifetime blood health partner that is EFFECTIVE, SAFE, CONVENIENT, AND AFFORDABLE.



"OBANDO," oil,
by Aris Bagtas

Artists join colorful Obando festival

THE OBANDO Municipal Council and the Obando Parish Church, with the Art Association of the Philippines, Tuklas Sining and Supling, present "Obando, Isang Paglalakbay," the 249th founding anniversary of Obando, a town in Bulacan

steeped in culture and tradition. Highlighting the affair is a nine-day pre-fiesta pageantry starting on May 8. Tourists shall be treated to a visual feast of mural paintings on the walls and on the streets. There will also be on-the-spot painting competitions and art

performances.

A major exhibit shall be launched on May 8 at 6 p.m. at the Colegio de San Pascual Baylon. Participants include Rolie Alcantara, Aris Bagtas, Raymond Damian, Mark Gonzales, Tony Joaquin, Allan Mendoza,

Wilfredo Offemaria, the Samonte brothers, Tetet Santos and Mar Torres.

The Fertility Dance Festival takes place on May 17 and 19. The festival honors the three Obando patron saints—Santa Clara, Nuestra Señora de Salambao and San Pascual Baylon.



"PAGHILING sa Obando," acrylic on canvas, by Edmond Samonte



"NUESTRA Señora de Salambao," oil on canvas, by Marvin Samonte

Mother-and-Child works at Ad Infinitum

From page D3

"Summer Panorama" on May 10 at the RCBC Plaza Lobby. On view are the latest works of renowned artists Prudencio Lamarroza, Remy Boquiren, Caloy Gabuco, Emmanuel Garibay, Marcel Antonio, Jeff Dizon, Al Bandalan, Fred Alcuaz, Bal Fornaliza, Edsel Moscoso and Manuel Baldemor. The exhibit, which will run until June 10, will showcase summer scenes like rural landscapes, pastoral scenes, Mother and Child, young provincial maidens, gardenscapes, flowers in bloom and still life.

Galeria de Nava is also offering art lessons for children, youths and adults with veteran artist Solano Cruz as instructor. Art lessons are held at the gallery's branches at the Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, SM City North Edsa and Sta. Lucia East Mall. Call 935-3272 or 303-7086.

LIMPE AT ARTWALK. Businessman-painter Julius Limpe will hold his ninth solo exhibit, "Limpe's Fishes for Young Collectors," on May 7, at the Crucible Gallery, 4/L Artwalk, Building A, SM Megamall in Ortigas. Limpe, known as a fish painter, is best known for his unique take on expressionism and style, usually deriving inspiration from his vivid and creative imagination.

CERAMIC WORKSHOP. Learn to make functional and elegant ceramics in the Earthenwake Ceramic workshop, a free form workshop using different techniques like wedging, kneading, pinching, coiling and slab building. Techniques on plaster molding, painting, faux finishes and glaze dipping will also be taught. Classes will start on May 18. Other workshops will cover copper wire jewelry, stones and copper weaving (bottle and candle), shade and lamp artistry, bottle frosting/painting/embellishment, faux stained glass (adults); sculptural clay exploration, little potters, tiny crafters and animation (kids). The workshops will be held by Art Pack at True Value, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City. Call 899-1985, 895-2318, or 0917-7934229.

HONG KONG SHOW. The Philippine Association of Hong Kong presents an exhibit by a group of contemporary Filipino artists, 3-8 p.m., May 7, at the inaugural venue of the Foreign Correspondents Club, Hughes and Albert Rooms. Mostly residing in Hong Kong, the artists will present a colorful and exciting exhibition of fine arts and porcelain art. Proceeds of the exhibit will be donated to Philippine charities. Call 852-2525/7553.

WORKSHOPS. Three of the country's noted artists will conduct workshops on portrait painting, fashion illustration and nude painting starting this month. Portrait sessions, with lectures and demonstrations, will be conducted every Monday starting May 13 by veteran portrait artist Mar Bongalon. Graphic magazine lifestyle editor Gilbert Perez will handle fashion illustration every Tuesday starting May 7. Nude drawing and painting will be handled by positivism exponent and painter E.R. Tagle every Saturday of May. All art lessons will be held 2-5 p.m. at the E.R. Tagle Little Gallery, Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St. (Vito Cruz Ext.), Makati City. Call 816-0904 or 0917-9726223.

For more details, visit or call any of our branches:

Makati Artium Branch
Tel. nos.: 891-4561 or 811-4370
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1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting April 25, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.

2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Vague & Mascardo Sts., 1201 Makati City.

3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/winners will receive any one (1) of the following:

Fillen (15) David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services).

Fillen (15) Body and Soul Spa Treatments worth P2500

Fillen (15) Avon gift certificates worth P2000

4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.

5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.

6. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.

7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail, and their names will be announced via print ads.

8. Winners can claim their prizes at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.

9. Raffle prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.

10. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

11. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

12. Promo is valid only in GMA.

Notes: VAT include and apply only on the May 12 issue.

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MOM

New auction records set for Asian art

SOTHEBY'S Auction of Southeast Asian Paintings held at The Regent Singapore this month fetched a total of \$5,651,558. Auction records were also set by works of Indonesian artist Hendra Gunawan and Indo-European artist Arie Smit.

After competitive bidding in the salesroom packed with active buyers, Walter Spies' "Heimkehrende Javaner (Javeneze Returning Home)" changed hands for \$967,000, the highest price paid among the paintings on offer. The painting is an unusual work by the artist with a focus on the human figure.

During his stay in Java, Spies was inspired to record the physical beauty of the local people. The positioning and dominance of the figures in this work emphasize the human narrative and their symbolic associations with the artist's own feelings.

Auction record was set for Hendra Gunawan's "Fish Seller" when it was sold for \$418,200 after competitive bidding in the room. The painting exemplifies the artist's articulate use of vivid colors and patterns.

"ANTES de la Tempesta" by Filipino artist Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, oil on canvas, was third most expensive painting at \$351,000.



"HEIMKEHRENDE Javaner" by Walter Spies, oil on canvas, went for \$967,000, the highest paid at the auction.



"FISH Seller" by Hendra Gunawan, oil on canvas, sold for \$418,200, another record set.

The stylized depiction of subject matters delineates a deep level of traditional artistic expression in Indonesia.

"Antes de la Tempesta" by Filipino artist Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, sold for \$351,000, was the third most expensive painting at the auction. The painting is a romantic depiction of the Norman or Breton coast. The expressive brushwork displays the artist's remarkable bravura and confidence in execution.

Arie Smit's "Coral—Temple Block" received active bidding in the salesroom. Prices escalated with active bidding in the salesroom and the painting was finally sold for \$100,300 against a presale estimate of \$20,000-28,000. It is also a new auction record for works by the Indo-European artist.

"We are very pleased with the results of the sale," says Mok Kim Chuan, specialist in charge. "Competition is keen on prewar paintings by Indo-European artists, and prices realized for a lot of paintings were beyond the high estimates. We are particularly delighted with the fervor of bidders that made the two auction records possible."



"RED is the Sun, Carabao Series" by Vicente Manansala, oil on board



"BACKYARD Gossip" by Anita Magsaysay-Ho, oil on canvas

CONGRATULATIONS!

ALTUS

DERMATOLOGICAL LASERS SPECIALISTS CENTER



Right to left: Dr. Cynthia Morales, Dr. Eve Ramos, Dr. Susan Verallo, Dr. Divina Go and Dr. Marlou Ong

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This classic novel will make a good film

"Singsing na Pangkasal"

By Lazaro Francisco
UP Press, 2001
346 pages

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE NOVELIST Lazaro Francisco was born in Orani, Bataan in 1898 to a Methodist couple who, it is said, were harassed by the town's overzealous Catholics. As a result, the Franciscos migrated to Cabanatuan City when Lazaro was a teenager.

The city has since honored Francisco, or Ka Saro as he was called by the literary commu-

nity, with a school named after him. He died in 1980 at the age of 82, having won most of the country's literary awards (except the National Artist award).

Francisco wrote a total of 12 novels from 1925-1961, all but one serialized in Liwayway, where the writer had legions of readers.

The novels may be roughly classified into three periods. In the late 1920s, Francisco grappled with social issues, exemplified by "Ama" and "Bayang Nagpitiwakal." By the mid-1930s, however, Francisco had become very popular. Romantic love was the main focus in his novels, which were adapted for stage and screen, and starred personalities

like Rogelio de la Rosa and Carmen Rosales.

The 1940s and 1950s ushered in Ka Saro's major novel, dealing with war and agrarian unrest, including "Sugat ng Alaala," "Maganda Pa ang Daigdig" and "Daluyong." These novels have been published in book form by Ateneo Press, and are available in leading bookstores.

REVIEW

Now comes "Singsing na Pangkasal," which capped the middle period of Francisco, and was eagerly followed by Liwayway readers from 1939-1940. It won a prize in the Commonwealth Literary Contest of 1940 and was made into a movie directed by Jose Nepomuceno, and starring Serafin Garcia



and Rosario Moreno.

The novel is an *abangan-ang-susunod-nakabanata* type of story, long, detailed and sometimes repetitious. One can visualize Ka Saro—like Fyodor Dostoyevsky a century earlier—filling out each episode of the weekly serial with the required number of pages, making each chapter as long as possible.

From the start, the reader's interest is aroused, as the forthcoming wedding of Virgilio, a successful architect-engineer, and Lydia, an heiress, is announced:

"Handa na ang lahat ng bagay halos. Naitakda na ang araw ng pag-iisang dibdib ni Lydia at Virgilio."

The settings are Cabanatuan ("ang bayan ng K..."), Manila, Baguio; Bigaa, Bulacan; and Davao. From his home province of Nueva Ecija, Virgilio journeys to Manila to buy a wedding ring for his fiancée.

In the train, however, Virgilio meets the unfortunate Carmen, beautiful but impoverished, and her dying mother. The kindhearted Virgilio becomes a Good Samaritan, triggering off a long chain of events and series of misunderstandings.

Believing Virgilio to be unfaithful to their daughter, Lydia's parents, the fiery Donya Isabel and the weakling Don Silvestre, pack her off to Davao. Virgilio follows, and there is a violent confrontation with Donya Isabel.

In the meantime, Carmen is trailed by a persistent suitor, Tereso Maldia, who at one point in the story tries to kill Virgilio.

The novel has certain features that may jar the modern reader: The author ends practically every sentence in the dialogue with an exclamation point. Also, the characters, brim with sentiment, are prone to cry at the slightest provocation, bite their lips ("kinagat ang labi") and sigh ("nagbuntong-hininga").

Nevertheless, "Singsing na Pangkasal," 62 years after its serialization, remains a suspenseful love drama, a real page-turner by a master storyteller whose powers of narration were peaking in 1939.

This classic novel should be made into a telenovela, or even a film once again, given the right director and a strong cast.

Cast Jericho Rosales in the role of Virgilio, with Kristine Hermosa as Lydia and L.J. Moreno as Carmen. Joko Diaz will do as the villainous Maldia. Elizabeth Oropesa can be the bitchy Donya Isabel and Vilma Santos may be persuaded to play the role of Donya Titang, Virgilio's mother, with Joel Torre as Don Silvestre, Lydia's father.

But first we need a good storyline and script. Paging Pete Lacaba, Ricky Lee, and/or Roy Iglesias.

Rare Filipiniana books now in CD-ROM

THE FILIPINAS Heritage Library (FHL), through a grant from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), makes available 24 rare Filipiniana books on CD-ROM format.

The "Filipiniana Book Guild Series I," a collection of remarkable manuscripts on Philippine history and culture first published by the Filipiniana Book Guild from 1963 to 1975, is a useful reference tool for researchers, cultural workers and students of Philippine culture and arts. It allows retrieval of information with a click of the mouse.

Interesting and informative insights by Filipino and foreign writers spanning various time periods are included in the series. Some out-of-print titles in the CD-ROM are Paul P. dela Gironiere's "Twenty Years in the Philippines" (published in 1962); Giovanni Francesco Gemelli Careri's "A Voyage to the Philippines" (1963); Najeeb M. Saleeby's "The History of Sulu" (1963); Maximo Manguiat Kalaw's "The Filipino Rebel" (1964); Percy A. Hill's "Romance and Adventure in the Old Walls" (1964); and James A. Le Roy and Joseph Earle Steven's account of "Philippines Circa 1900: Philippine Life in Town and Country and Yesterday in the Philippines" (1968).

The Filipiniana Book Guild was established in 1963 by Filipinos, foreigners and institutions to restore and publish out-of-print books about the Philippines written as far back as the 16th century and make these available to the public.

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SILLIMAN Hall—the university's oldest building. With local blocks for the first story walls and lumber imported from the American West Coast, the first Silliman Hall was erected in 1903. Completion of this original Silliman Hall enabled the school to accept more students who numbered 191 by the school year 1904-05.

National heritage death wish afflicts Dumaguete

DUMAGUETE is one of the few Philippine cities with a definite character of its own. The city is simply beautiful. That is something difficult to find in the Philippines these days. Beautiful cities are a thing of the past, something no longer existing in the national consciousness. We routinely destroy the structures and the vistas that give our cities their identity. We replace them with ugly architecture that we put up in the name of progress. It seems like we have a national death wish for our cities.

Manila is in decay. Baguio's beauty has been buried in concrete. Vigan, inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage List, is losing the quaint ancient character that sets it apart from other towns in the country.

Lovely Dumaguete is a peaceful university town where life centers around the Silliman campus and its students. Its magnificent sea-side boulevard, a landmark that has survived the years, reminds a Manilaño like me that we once had a boulevard as wonderful as that in the days when Roxas Boulevard was still called Dewey Boulevard. Together with the American-period architecture in the verdant Silliman University campus, the boulevard along the sea is what gives Dumaguete a strong identity. It is unlike any other city in the Philippines.

But the national death wish may have fallen upon Dumaguete. The axe is falling slowly. Six years ago the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) started a 6,000-sq-m reclamation to accommodate a new fast ferry terminal located menacingly close to the campus of Silliman. Reports say the opposition from Dumaguete residents and Silliman University successfully obtained a cease and desist order (CDO) from the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DENR). Despite the CDO, the PPA continued the project.

More reclamation

Now the PPA wants to reclaim another 1.13 hectares to extend the fast craft terminal. The location of the new extension is in front of the Silliman University campus, cutting off the view of landmark Silliman Hall. Silliman Hall is a rambling two-story wooden building that is the focus and symbolic center of the univer-

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon



city built by a local *maestro carpintero* under the supervision of American missionaries in 1901. It is said to be the first building constructed in the Philippines during the American era.

NATIONAL/ p.E4

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"Expressions at 14"

IN 1984, Central Bookstore, Inc. (CBSI), a division of Sterling Paper Products, Inc., opened its first concession store in Cubao. It was the company's first venture into retailing, with the main focus on Sterling Greeting Cards, Paper Products and other exclusively distributed. Soon after, CBSI operated the stationery sections of Ever Recto, Ever Concepcion, Manila and Isetann Carriedo. More concession outlets soon followed in Glor-Ri Del Monte, 1985; Glo-Ri Tandang Sora, 1986; and Glo-Ri Roces, 1987.

By April 1988, these retail outlets were given a new corporate identity: Expressions Card and Stationery Shop was the name given to its first company owned and operated retail outlet in SM-Carpark, SM North EDSA. Seven months later, the 2nd outlet opened at Ever Gotesco Grand Central and another concession outlet at Ever Plaza – a department store within the same Ever Gotesco Grand Central mall.

In 1990, Expressions began looking at an inter-island operation. It established a foothold in the Visayas by managing the stationery section of Robinsons Cebu – months after it opened additional stationery sections in Robinsons Galleria, Ermita and Alabang. Expressions opened its SM City Cebu branch in 1994.

Expressions now boasts of a 41-out-

let operations across Luzon and the Visayas with the addition of at least 5 new Expressions stores opening within the year 2002.

From its humble beginnings as a "card and stationery shop", Expressions has expanded its merchandise mix to provide customers with quality and affordable school and office supplies, gifts and novelty items, greeting cards, stationeries, albums, seasonal decorative and fun items plus many more. It continues to carry well-known and trusted brands that have remained partners of Expressions throughout the years.

In addition to providing affordable school and office supplies, Expressions saw the need to include internet and computer services which evolved into ExCel or Expressions Center for Learning in 1997. These services are

housed in selected Expressions stores with a minimum of 10 computers that customers can use to complement the tools for learning and communication available in Expressions.

Technology has also played an important part in the growth of Expressions. In the early '90s, Expressions was one of the first retailers to use the Point-Of-Sale (POS) System providing customers with faster checkout at the cash counter. The company is currently using the SAP (System Application Program) from Germany to fulfill its commitment to deliver the right merchandise at the right time by placing all stores nationwide online with the head office in Makati City. Monitoring inventory, ordering, replenishment and sales generation has become faster and more accurate. To further improve operations, Category Management has also been implemented to maximize the sales potential of each merchandise category. This also supplements the coming applica-

Your
affordable
school
and office
supply
store

MORE
THAN
JUST
A CARD
SHOP

tion of Supply Chain Management in the Expressions operations.

In 1995, the tagline "It's More Than Just a Card Shop" was attached to Expressions name. In 1997, the company decided to forego acquiring and opening concession outlets to further boost the new corporate image. It also changed its logo to reflect a mature image and a professional business culture. As a result, all Glo-ri Supermarket outlets were closed in 1998 as well as the Robinsons Department Store concessions.

In line with the company's mission and vision, Expressions renews its commitment to its customers beginning with the change of the new logo of Expressions as well as the beginnings of the new look of all its stores. Expressions is also changing the old tagline of "More than a card shop" to "Your affordable school and office supplies store" to clearly communicate what the Expressions stores offer.

Expressions' new logo

SINCE opening its first store in SM City North EDSA in 1988, the first Expressions logo used a color combination of neon-green logotype half-immersed in a fuchsia triangle with a 30° angle representing energy and creativity aiming to attract the youth market and serve them with equal dynamism.

In 1995, covering a wider market base and an increasing category of merchandise, Expressions enhanced the neon-green logo to reflect the changes of the growing company. The Expressions' logotype, now in white and still in a rising 30° angle set on a solid green backdrop.

In 2000, Expressions has seen further merchandise category expansion and has focused its efforts to serve a definite target market of young and hip students and professionals who are looking for a store to serve their stationery needs and provide them with valuable services. It also seeks to serve

as a place where their stationery services needs also express their individual tastes and preference.

The new logo starts with a bold type to spell out Expressions in green and its "x" uses a red swoosh that streaks across the letters

sions customers with innovative products to suit their lifestyle.

The red swoosh seemingly streaking into the horizon indicates the company's desire to go beyond simply providing customers with world-class products in our stores but also provide value-added services, unmitigated customer service, accessible locations and a unique shopping experience. The red star at the end of the swoosh atop the "i" indicates its commitment to excellence in operations, service to the communities where the stores belong to and to the betterment of Expressions' employees.

Overall, Expressions has de-

cided to use a new logo that is fun and easy to identify with in terms of branding.

Expressions

Expressions Stores

Saver's Mall, Angeles City
Baguio City
Balanga, Bataan
Baliuag, Bulacan
Batangas City
Cinemas Complex
Ever Commonwealth
Ever Grand Central, Caloocan
Fairview Center Mall
Gonzaga, Bacolod
Isetann Cubao
Isetann Manila
Isetann Recto
Jenra Mall, Angeles City
Lipa City, Batangas
Legazpi City, Albay
Lucena City, Quezon

Metropolis Star Mall, Alabang
Meycauayan, Bulacan
Novaliches
Olongapo City

Pasig City
Robinsons Place, Manila
Robinsons Metro East, Pasig
Robinsons Cebu
Robinsons Place Bacolod
Royal Family Mall, Malinta
San Pablo City, Laguna
San Fernando, La Union
SM City Carpark, North EDSA
SM Cebu
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall
Tandang Sora, Quezon City
Tarlac City, Tarlac
Walter Mart, Quezon City
Walter Mart, Makati
Walter Mart, Calamba
Walter Mart, Dasmariñas, Cavite
Walter Mart, Sta. Rosa
Walter Mart, Carmona
Walter Mart, Gen. Trias
Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
(to open this month)

Become a franchise partner at Expressions

IN 1997, Expressions expanded its business model to include involvement of committed entrepreneurs by offering a franchising scheme designed to minimize capital exposure on the part of the franchisee. The first franchise store opened in November 1997 at Gonzaga, Bacolod. The success of this franchise encouraged the Franchisee to open a 2nd outlet at Robinsons Place Bacolod in May, 1998. In the same month, the Batangas City Franchise was also inaugurated. A new dimension was added to the corporate image of Expressions – developing partnerships between a seasoned retail company and dedicated franchisees.

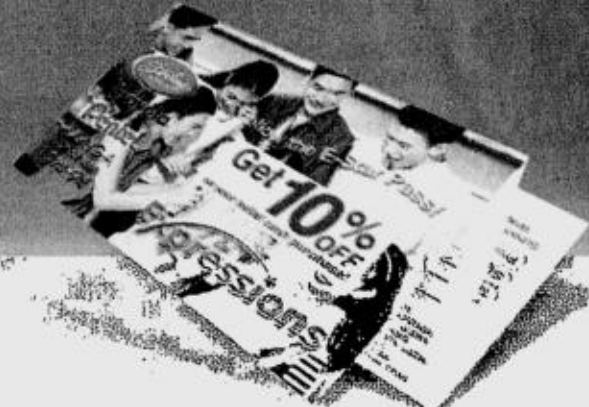
The Expressions Franchise Support Program includes:

1. Site Inspection
2. Store Planning, Design and Construction Plan
3. Retail Merchandising Support
4. Recruitment, Hiring and Training of Staff
5. Business Planning
6. Forecasting and Inventory Management
7. Market Information, Research and Analysis
8. Point-of-Sale System and Computer Operations

Become an Expressions Partner in four easy steps:

1. Send a letter of intent with a detailed map of the store's proposed location.
2. Expressions will conduct a site audit on the feasibility of an outlet on the proposed site upon confirmation of the franchise partnership applicant.
3. Presentation of the Franchise Agreement.
4. Celebrate the opening of a new Expressions outlet.

grab one



E-Star Pass Promo Extended!

Expressions is happy to announce that the E-Star Pass Promo has been extended to October 31, 2002. The E-Star Pass card will be accepted at all Expressions stores (except those located in Mart One stores), as a special treat for all Expressions customers in time for their Back-To-School season purchases.

The E-Star Pass Card gives Expressions customers 10% off on their

first purchase with no minimum purchase requirement. Another 10% discount awaits the E-Star Pass holder at the 8th purchase visit as well as a fresh E-Star Pass Card to be used on their next purchase before the end of the promotion on October 31, 2002.

E-Star Pass Cards are distributed in areas surrounding all Expressions stores. Be on the lookout!



ssions

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Mart One, your discount store

OF LATE, value for money is what retail customers are looking for. Regardless of the cost, customers always have a sense of what price is appropriate for that particular item.

Mart One - Your Discount Store, is not a traditional factory depot selling overruns, not a surplus shop selling seconds, but a Real Discount Store. Mart One provides branded value merchandise at the lowest price making it the place to shop for smart buyers.

Opening its doors to shoppers in October 1999 in Pasig, the 1st Mart One store boasts of housing local brands like Bench, Company B, Colours, Hanford among the many trusted brands that carries blue price tags. These blue price tag items carry the same Standard Real Price as major department stores but when paid for at the cash counters, Mart One provides customers with a 5% discount—giving Mart One shoppers the lowest price, always!

Mart One carries complete apparel lines such as branded Men's,

Ladies and Children's Wear as well as other low-priced Men's, Ladies' and Children's Wear, Shoes, Bags and other accessories, houseware and toys. Mart One customers' stationery needs are supplied by Expressions, conveniently located inside every Mart One.

Since 1999, Mart One has expanded its operations to Lipa, Batangas; Olongapo City; Lucena, Quezon; San Fernando, La Union and soon to open in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte this month.



MART One La Union



MART One Olongapo



LEGAZPI CITY



INSIDE Robinsons Metro East



ROBINSONS MetroEast



SM City carpark

Expressions Center for Learning (ExCel)

ExCel or Expressions Center for Learning was first opened to form part of the Expressions Isetann Cinerama

Complex outlet in 1997. ExCel allowed Expressions customers to have easy access to the internet, avail themselves of the desktop design and printing and even use the PC to prepare personal document.

One of the pioneers to provide internet access to the general public, ExCel perfectly complements the Expressions merchandise mix. Being a school and office supplies store, Expressions wanted to complete the learning experience of its customers, which are mostly composed of students, by providing electronic access to information and communication. ExCel's desktop services and use of Personal computers also assists the students' assignments, reports and other requirements for class.

ExCel's services are currently available in selected Expressions stores Luzon-wide.



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National heritage death wish afflicts Dumaguete

From page E1

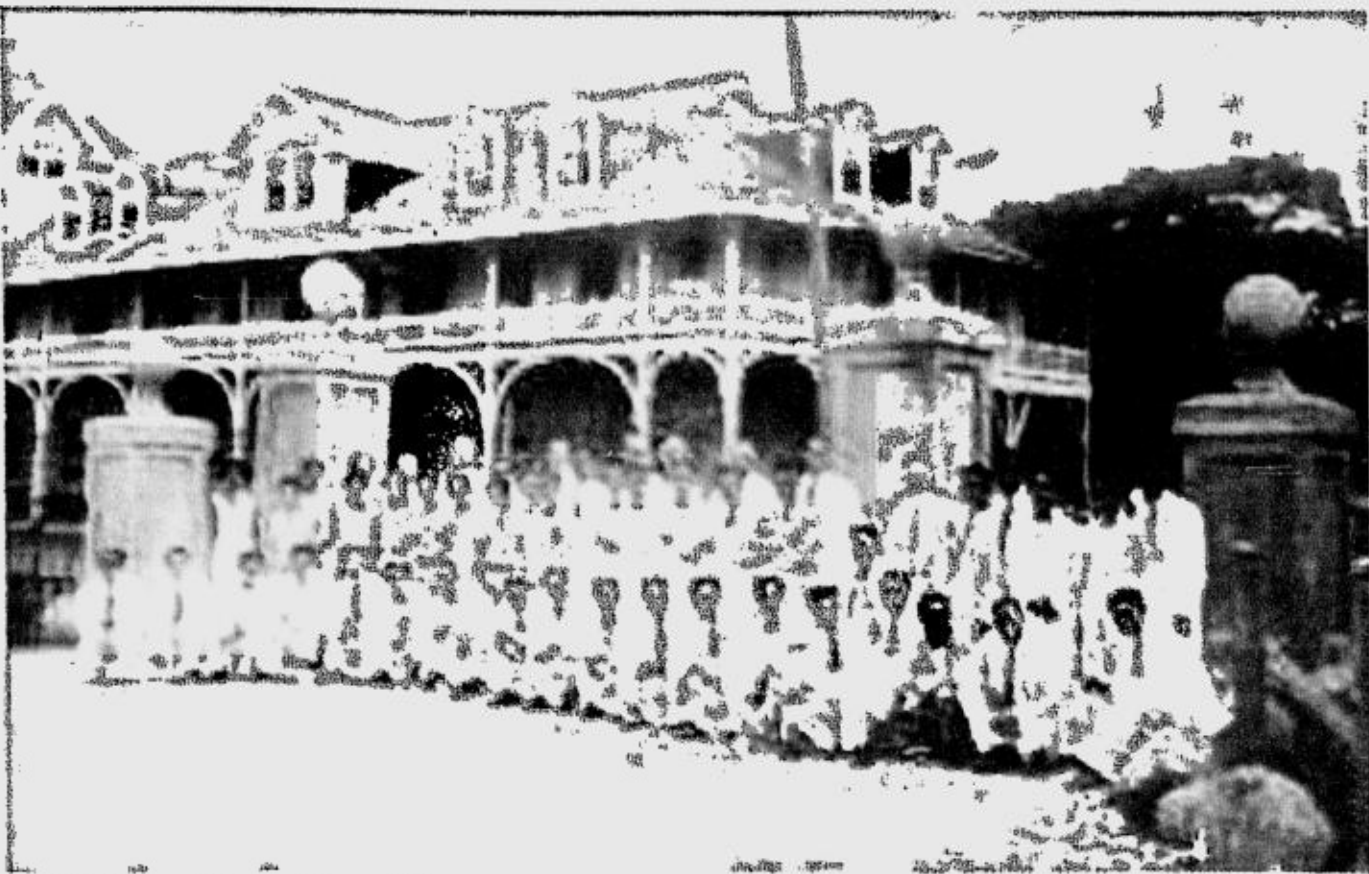
A reclamation project by the Philippine Ports Authority threatens to deface one of the country's most beautiful towns

The expansion reclaims a substantial portion on the seaside of the scenic Dumaguete boulevard, specifically covering the entire sea-side front of Silliman. The reclamation will be followed by a second phase that will reclaim 13 hectares for the construction of a container yard and for the construction of the new PPA offices.

Without doubt, to improve economic opportunities and to attract those elusive hordes of tourists that continue to slip through our hands, port facilities must be improved. But the improvement should not be at the cost of heritage, aesthetic and environmental considerations.

Dumaguete residents and Silliman University have joined forces to protest the expansion. Silliman scientists have determined that the first 6,000 sq m reclamation is extremely damaging to the marine ecology of the area. If that is so, think of the destruction of 13 hectares of reclamation. An earlier reclamation to extend the airport runway caused sea current patterns to reverse, scouring sediment and damaging rich seagrass and coral reefs. It also severely affected the fishing industry, the livelihood of coastal families.

Is such a large facility really necessary? The number of fast craft trips to Dumaguete has decreased from 19 a day in 1999 to eight a day in 2001. A large area of the proposed reclamation is assigned to parking. Studies show that most passengers are dropped off or picked up



STUDENTS pose before the Silliman Hall.

at the terminal, so minimal parking facilities are needed.

Alternatives

Residents have suggested alternative sites for the port expansion away from the boulevard. They further suggest that with the number of fast craft arrivals, the existing passenger terminal can be improved without any further reclaiming of land.

The seaside boulevard is the shared link of

Dumaguete and Silliman to the sea. It is the focus of life—both in the city and in the university. Silliman has always been "beside the sea," as the school song goes.

The context of the university and Silliman Hall goes beyond its being said to be the first building constructed in the American era. It is the symbol of Silliman University. For me, it is such a beautiful piece of architecture. It derives much of its beauty from its relationship with the sea, with its verandahs surrounding the building fully opening out to the sea. The view of the boulevard and the sea from either the tower or the verandah of Silliman Hall tells how both Silliman and Dumaguete depend on the sea for their life. It is a manifestation of how nature and human creation combine to produce a cultural landscape of extreme beauty.

We do not realize that vistas are part of our heritage. Paradoxically, we recognize the value of vistas. The Manila Bay sunset vista is well documented as a landmark. The attraction of Tagaytay is its weather and its vista. But the sweeping vista of the lake and volcano that used to greet the visitor as soon as he arrived at the Tagaytay rotunda is gone. So is most of the vista along the ridge that is now covered by nondescript buildings.

We do not recognize that the public has the right to a view, and therefore protective zoning should ensure that the views remain accessible to the general public and, yes, to that elusive tourist we are trying to attract so much.

The Dumaguete boulevard vista is one of

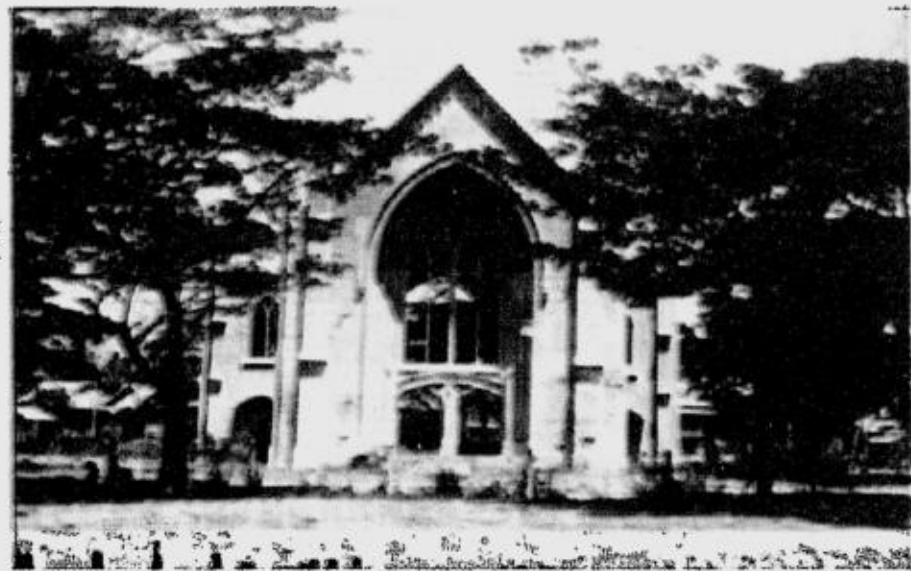
our most outstanding national views—on par with the Rice Terraces, the Manila Bay sunset, Tagaytay and others. Once that vista goes, it is gone forever. Take a look at the reclamation on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City and see how irreversible reclamation can become and how a vista can become irrecoverable.

The residents of Dumaguete have made it clear that an alternative is available. Silliman University experts have released their findings that it is an ecological disaster to extend the docks in the location planned by the PPA. Write your concerns to Secretary Heherson Alvarez of the DENR (fax 920-4352) with a request that an in-depth study be made before it issues an environmental clearance certificate. Write to express your concerns to the National Historical Institute (fax 523-0842) and the Monuments and Sites Committee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (fax 527-2191).

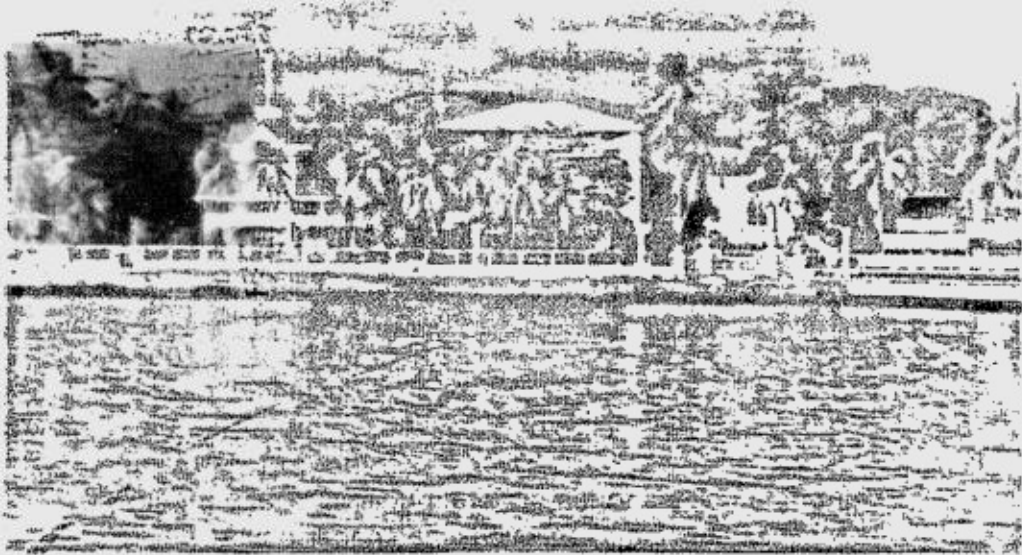
It appears that more consultation is needed with the stakeholders to understand what really is at stake in Dumaguete. So demand your right to be heard.

Heritage Conservation Society update. The Society thanks the donors and guests who made the "Society Auction" last Saturday a success. To join the Society's walking tours held every weekend, call the HCS Secretariat at 521-2239, 522-2497 or text (0917) 795-2697 or (0917) 830-0293 for information and bookings.

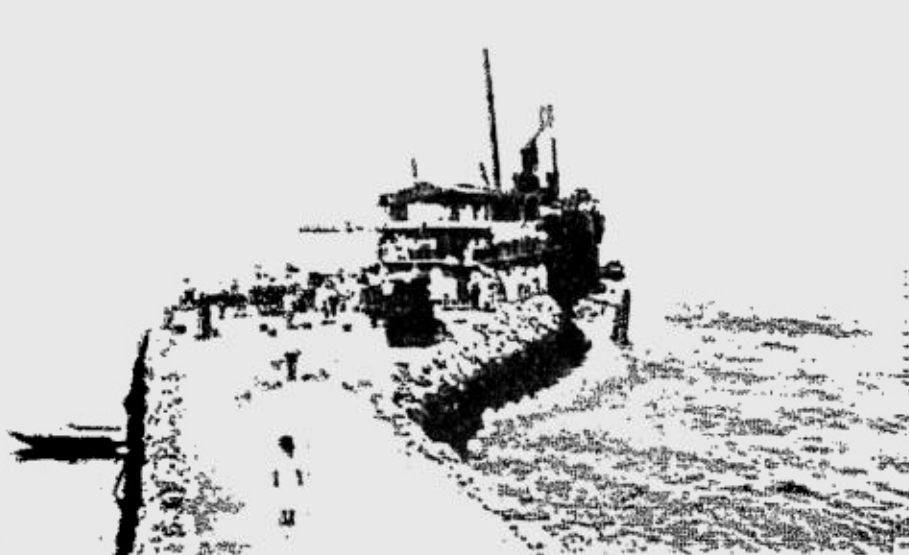
E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph



THE SILLIMAN University Church



THE SILLIMAN University Administration Building



OLD Dumaguete Quay

Art in the heart of Makati's business district

ON ITS fourth decade, Ayala Museum embarks on an ambitious goal: to catapult the Philippines and Filipino artists to the international art arena.

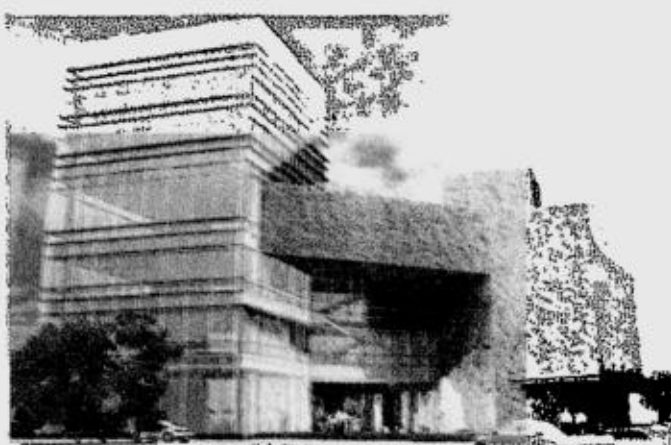
It is no mean feat. Local museums seldom get the opportunity to mount international exhibitions simply because they lack space or do not have the environmental controls that international traveling exhibitions require. Ayala Museum intends to meet those international standards by moving to a bigger building with state-of-the-art facilities. The new building, set to be completed in 2004, will rise at the corner of Makati Avenue and De la Rosa Street in Makati.

Meanwhile, the museum's operations are carried out in two Makati sites. For now, the famous dioramas and galleon exhibit are housed at the third level of Glorietta 2 in Ayala Center. The museum's priceless Fernando Amorsolo and

Fernando Zobel collections and changing art exhibitions are at the Ayala Museum art galleries on the ground floor of the old Makati Stock Exchange (MSE) Building.

Since it opened early this year, the MSE galleries have attracted more than its usual share of art enthusiasts. Employees from nearby offices have been visiting the museum during or after business hours to take a look at the latest artworks. Others inquire about the art classes and workshops held there after office hours and every Saturday. At Glorietta, the mall-going public and foreign visitors alike have also responded warmly to the move by taking guided tours of the historical dioramas and buying souvenirs and gifts at the Museum Shop.

Notes Dr. Florina Capistrano-Baker, director of the Ayala Museum: "This is a rare opportunity to inject art into the life of Makati employees. We are very fortunate to have these temporary homes while we await the opening of the



IN 2004, Ayala Museum will move to a bigger building.

new museum."

World-class museum

The new museum will bring art into the realm of the everyday by connecting to the elevated walkway surrounding Greenbelt. People on the walkway will be able to stroll into the museum or view the artworks from outside. Visitors can

then linger in the Zen garden or the museum's café to enjoy its serene environment. The museum is planned to become a gateway to the reinvigorated Greenbelt.

Designed by Leandro V. Locsin and Partners, the new Ayala Museum will feature more spacious galleries and function rooms, mak-

ing it possible for the country to host international art exhibitions. The museum is working with leading international conservators to ensure that it meets standards for such exhibitions. By opening its doors to such globally recognized events, Ayala Museum hopes to expose local talents to the international art world.

With support from Ayala Corp. and Ayala Land Inc., groundbreaking for the six-story building is expected to take place in April. In the meantime, museum activities will continue at the two locations. Weekly art workshops for adults and children are being held at the MSE building and at Glorietta, respectively. On Saturdays, visitors can observe the Visual Artists Guild at work. Members such as Romulo Galicano, Romulo Olazo, Juvenal Sansó, Rod Paras-Perez, Agustin Goy, Dante Silverio and Tam Austria regularly meet at the MSE courtyard for sketching sessions and animated discussions about art.

According to Dr. Baker, several exhibitions have already been lined up for the Ayala Museum galleries at MSE. Last March, the museum hosted the Asian International Art Exhibition organized by the Federation of Asian Artists. It is also mounted the best highlights from its collections for "Treasures at Ayala Museum" in celebration of Ayala Foundation's 40th year. "Treasures" gave a sweeping scope of Philippine cultural history from prehistory to the 20th century.

"We are caretakers of our cultural heritage," explains Dr. Baker. "The museum provides mental and spiritual nourishment, and a sense of self and community. We're here to serve the artistic community, the business community and the country."

For information on Ayala Museum's exhibits and activities, call Marives G. Pedraja at 812-1191 to 95 local 103.



For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Which movie will win the Urian best picture?

By Lito B. Zulueta

THE FIVE nominees for the best picture of the Gawad Urian should stave off the worst prognostications about the demise of Philippine cinema. Compared with last year's nominees, this year's nominees are an improvement if we go by their number. Last year there were four ("Tuhog," "Tanging Yaman," "Laro sa Baga" and "Deathrow"). This year there are five—"La Vida Rosa" (Star Cinema), "Batang Westside" (JCMC), "Live Show" (Regal), "Minsan May Isang Puso" (Regal) and "Hubog" (MACQ/Regal). All five represent to a certain degree the artistic assays of our best filmmakers in coming up with a cinema worthy of the heritage of excellence established by the masters like Gerry de Leon and Lino Brocka. And since a number of them are highly original and even experimental, the best picture nominees point to the future of Philippine cinema. They are movies that try to remake the language of our cinema, for better or for worse. When the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino hands out the Gawad Urian on May 11 at the Araneta Coliseum, what movie will best define the future? Take your pick.

"La Vida Rosa." Chito Roño's under-world thriller shows his penchant for lower-depth characters and the taut, morally ambivalent world they inhabit. He has done movies like this before, of course, but what distinguish "La Vida" are its extreme naturalism, tighter camera work and unpredictable but fluid narrative. Roño is aided in his vision by the extremely unaffected but rich texture and the artless but powerful dialogue and characterization of Armando Lao's screenplay. As always, Roño displays a mastery of mood with

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mriogo	subzo	mshireface	mshappyocchi

SAMPLE PICTURE MESSAGES Example: Type PIC GENKI and send to 235

genki	mrgolemface	hira	holly
mocchi	mrtigercute	Monster Rancher	mrgenkimocchi

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BY JESS ABRERA



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BY LYRA GARCELLANO



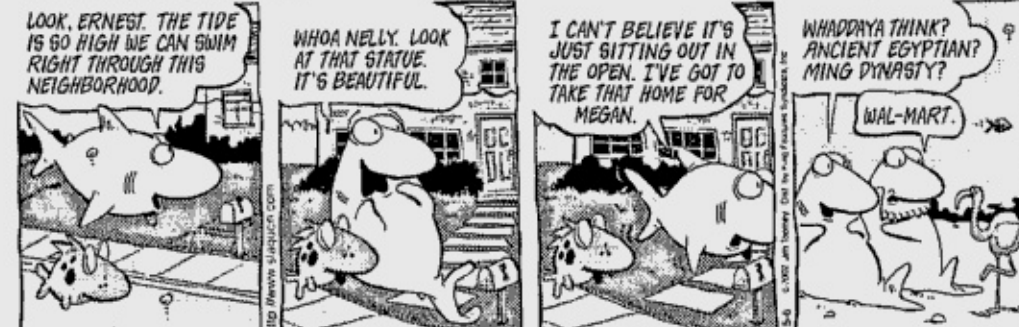
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY



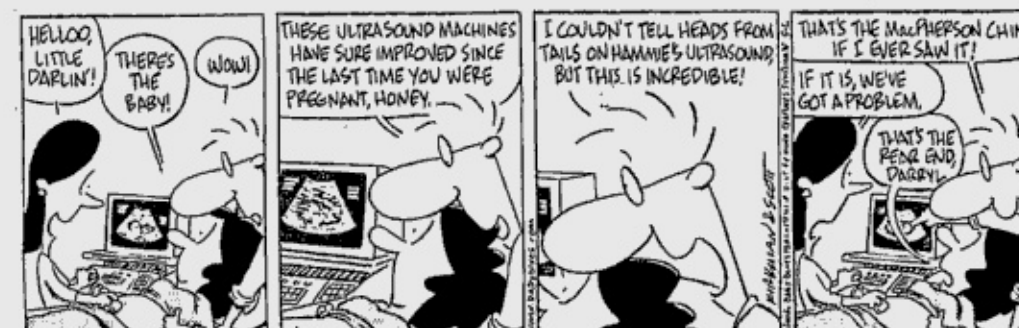
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT



MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pierce Brosnan, Orson Welles, George Clooney
Happy Birthday: You will enjoy alternative learning and social activity that lends itself to the creative or the unusual. You will choose your friends for their uniqueness, and you will be generous and affectionate with those you care about. Greater interactions with other family members will result in a closer bond this year. Your numbers are 8, 13, 17, 29, 34, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get out to functions that offer information, entertainment and the potential for networking. Opportunities may unfold at a children's event.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone you work with may not share information with you that's necessary. Do not donate more than you can afford to groups that you belong to. New friendships may not be as they appear.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let your imagination lead the way and you will come up with some excellent ideas. Your philosophy may be changing but it will also prove to guide you in a direction.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Try not to worry about things that you can't change. You should be looking into investments or money-making opportunities. Deal with any legal matters quickly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Lots of interesting options are unfolding especially where partnerships are concerned. Both personally and professionally you must listen to what others have to say. A major breakthrough is just around the corner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get organized. You need to show your worth by sharing your ideas. Recognition can be yours today so don't hold back or second guess how valuable you are.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have some inspirational ideas today. Put your best foot forward and expand on your interests. Socializing with friends will lead to a special connection.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take what others say to heart. You should check out real estate opportunities or do something that will brighten up your home. A change of scenery will be to your advantage.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put yourself on the line for a good friend. Your help will put you in a good position later this month. Let someone you're interested in join you on a pleasure trip.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may have some money concerns if you haven't been watching your spending habits. Concentrate at work and you'll make headway. Talk to colleagues about your intentions and you will probably receive some assistance.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your mind will be on emotional matters. Focus on money-making opportunities that present themselves. Don't hesitate to get involved in a business ventures with a trusted friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will have all sorts of interesting thoughts about money, investments and property. You can dazzle others but be discreet. Home improvement projects will turn out well.

Birthday Baby: You will be practical when it comes to money matters. You will want to work with others, taking on the most detailed jobs yourself. You will be precise and systematic in your approach to everything you do, and you will always have a long-term goal in mind.

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



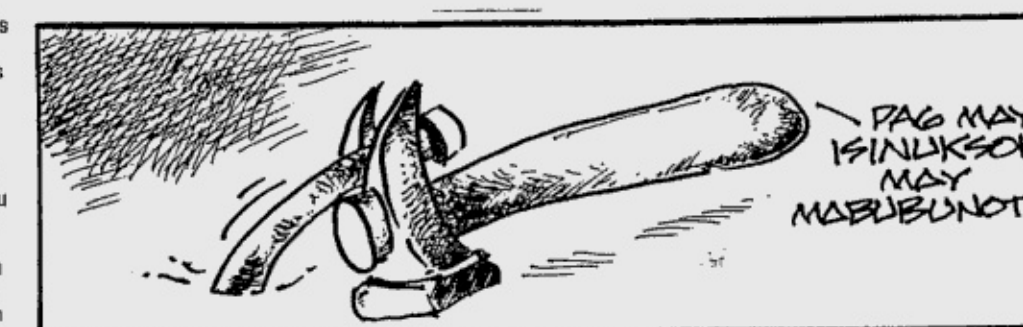
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBING



DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Venomous vipers

5 Fish by dragging a net

10 Narrow cut

14 March Madness letters

15 Eagle's nest

16 Hubbub

17 Make headway

18 Mrs. Gorbachev

19 Harrow rival

20 Tree frog

23 Examination subject

24 Fables writer

28 Fall flower

33 Impertinent

36 Hearts and diamonds

37 U.S. airline abbr.

38 Actor Grant

39 Hand weapons?

40 Waste allowance

41 Lode load

42 Pieces of pounds

43 Malt beverages

44 Former Broadway theater

47 Subsequent

48 Unaltered

52 Off-season basketball

57 Lat. list-ender

60 Acoustic

61 TLC part

62 Han Solo's princess

63 Form a bond

64 Claim on income

65 Craves

66 Cruise ship

67 Terminates

DOWN

1 Feeling of dread

2 Land's end?

3 Couples

4 Germ-free

5 Bull's-eye

6 Harvest

7 1997 Indy winner

8 Sagacious

9 Jump

10 Speakers' sound

11 Destiny

12 Wedding vow

13 Heavy weight

21 Neither fem. nor masc.

22 Listening devices

25 Frighten

26 Peripheral

27 H.S. Jr.'s exams

29 Manipulating

30 Fly constellation

31 Salt peter

32 S percentages

33 Glow

34 Shriver or Callas

35 we all?

39 de-lance

40 Octopus arm

41 Lima's land

43 Nota

45 Magnetic flux density units

46 Comic Phyllis

49 One more time

50 Healed

51 Adolescents

53 Sledgehammer

54 Oscar-winner of 1936

55 Actress Moran

56 Unit cost

57 Keebler's Ernie e.g.

58 Sri Lankan export

59 Help out



ADI Morag, Tomer Yariv, Ambassador Irit Ben Abba, Tessie Luz and Jaime Laya

Percussion show marks Israel's independence day

ISRAELI Ambassador, svelte **Irit Ben Abba** in dark electric blue, went all out to celebrate Israel's 54th independence anniversary at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which was decorated with masses of flowers.

Two buffet tables were laden with fiesta fare prepared by the Mandarin. Some may have headed for the fresh salmon and others for the hummus and tabouli but, oh, those blueberry pancakes with thick cream and blueberry syrup!

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

Leslie Murray skipped the clotted cream, but what would life be without my guilt trips? **Raffy Alunan** was "collared" by people probably eager to know why their water bills doubled, while wife **Elizabeth** enjoyed the buffet.

We spotted **Paul Koh** of the Singaporean Embassy in serious discussion with carrot-top **Maira Turley**, **Beth Day Romulo** who has finally moved to a new address, **Evie Costa** and **Helen Ong**, **Fortune Ledesma** and expert diver **Sylvia von Remoortele**, wife of the Belgian Ambassador **Roland Von Remoortele**, who said she was looking forward to her trip to Palau to watch the big ones you know, barracudas and such.

This year's celebration was marked by the first cultural performance here of Israel's premier percussion duo, **Tomer Yariv** and **Adi Morag**, who are truly virtuosos. The pair was followed by the Pinikpikan Band whose music is inspired by our ethnic minorities.

Three hundred kilos of instruments accompanied the journey of the two marimba play-

ers. The audience was fascinated by a unique and large instrument that looked nothing like the marimbas we are used to seeing, except for the scales.

The duo's intensity and energy elicited awed applause. The previous evening, at a welcome reception for them, Tomer and Adi jammed with members of Pinikpikan at Ambassador Ben Abba's penthouse.



ISRAEL Amabassador Irit Ben Abba, Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin, Anatoli Khmelinski, dean of the Diplomatic Corps and ambassador of the Russian Federation, Nestor Jardin, president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines



BETH Day Romulo and Swiss Ambassador Werner Baumann



VENEZUELA Ambassador Milena Ramirez and sculptor Ramon Orlina

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON



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Goldilocks

How thoughtful. How Goldilocks.



BIRGITTA Rosting of Denmark, Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam and Paz Yuchengco



SPANISH Ambassador Tomas Pantoja



BELGIAN Ambassador Roland and Sylvia Remoortele and Singapore Ambassador Jackie Foo



DANISH Ambassador Peter Rosting and Czech Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky



PAUL Koh and Maira Turley



CLARA Colesanti of Italy and Valentina Khmelinski of Russia

Mag. Goldilocks tayol! Apat, lima, anim... Lumpiang Shanghai, bilhin. Pito, walo, siyam. Popcorn, mamon, tisan. Pagdating ng sampo, dala'y Hale. Alalawa, tallo... mag. Goldilocks tayol! Apat, lima, anim... Lumpiang Shanghai, bilhin. Pito, walo, siyam. Popcorn, mamon, tisan. Pagdating ng sampo, dala'y Hale.

Which movie will win the Urian best picture?

From page F1

The best picture nominees prefigure the future of Philippine cinema

his gritty evocation of the city's crime-soaked streets, dingy alleys and corners, smog-clouded streetlights and pale shadows and sinister presence. Aside from direction and screenplay, the movie is also nominated for best actor (Diether Ocampo), actress (Rosanna Roces), supporting actor (Jiro Mano), supporting actress (Liza Lorena), cinematography (Neil Daza), editing (Joyce Bernal and Vito Cajili), production design (Gerry Pascual), music (Jay Durias) and sound (Addisa Tabong and Alex Tomboc).

"**Batang West Side.**" If it had not been nominated, Lav Diaz's ambitious film would have still entered the history books as the longest Filipino feature movie ever. The debate is still raging whether its length merely masks the ego of its maker, but the thunder unleashed by the news that the movie won the top prize in the 15th Singapore International Film Festival seems to have turned the tide in favor of Diaz. The Manunuri, of course, has always pointed to the promise of Diaz since his first commercial release, "Kriminal ng Bo. Concepcion," in 1998. This year, it has awarded the lion's share of the nominations



KLAUDIA Koronel in "Tuhog"

(together of course with the other best picture nominees) to "Westside," which is included in the race by virtue of its commercial showing last year in the Third CineManila Film Festival, where it won a special prize. Focusing on the investigation into the murder of a Filipino expatriate youth in New York, the movie tackles a cornucopia of concerns: the drug culture, gangland wars, cultural alienation, inter-generational estrangement, abuse and exploitation, guilt and redemption. It is arguably the most experimental Filipino feature movie since "Bayaning Third World" in 1999 and, like the Mike de Leon work, it holds the potential of transforming the way audiences look at the cinema and the world around them. Aside from direction and screenplay (also by Diaz), the movie is nominated for best actor (Joel Torre), supporting actress (Gloria Diaz and Priscilla Almada), supporting actor (Raul Arellano), cinematography (Miguel Fabie III), editing (Ron Dale), production design (Cesar Hernandez), music (Joey Ayala) and sound (Rudy Gonzales and Alex Tomboc).

"**Live Show.**" Even if Malacañang, under pressure from certain quarters of the Catholic Church, had not banned it and given it the notoriety it did not entirely deserve, Jose Javier Reyes' movie would still have been cited as one of the year's more notable. The subject matter alone—live-sex performers and their shabby, broken-down existence—would have sufficed to capture critical, if not lascivious, attention. In the hands of Reyes, who also wrote the movie, the subject becomes suffused with understanding, insight and pathos. Perhaps Reyes is a tad too understanding about their plight, but no one will begrudge him for trying to do so, revealing in the process the wretched social and moral conditions that humiliate commercial sex workers even before they drop their first article of clothing. It may be unapologetically pessimistic, but it is hardly pornography. The pornography is in the excess of fervor of moral zealots who see only sleaze in artistic attempts at social probing with a soul. Aside from direction and screenplay, the movie is also nominated for best actor (Paulo Rivero), supporting actress (Klaudia Koronel and Hazel Espinosa), supporting actor (Simon Ibarra), cinematography (Eduardo Jacinto), editing (Vito Cajili), production design (Jake de Asis), music (Jesse Lucas) and sound (Albert Michael Idioma).

"**Minsan May Isang Puso.**" Unpretentious in its artistry and unobtrusive in its magic, Jose Javier Reyes' "Minsan May Isang Puso" is that small gem of a movie, its quiet energy propelled by seemingly ordinary conflicts and dilemmas that however pack metaphysical weight. Made in the tradition of those unassuming Lino Brocka "chamber" social dramas, it tells the story of a boy who selflessly tends to a comatose father and tries to prevent the disintegration of his hard-pressed family by working in a bakery owned by a hard and cynical taskmaster. In the end, while the boy's prayers and efforts don't exactly restore his father's health, his perseverance and good nature keep



CARLO Aquino and Jaclyn Jose in "Minsan May Isang Puso"



COGIE Domingo and Eddie Garcia in "Deathrow"



CARLOS Morales and Ara Mina in "Laro sa Baga"



"LIVE SHOW"



ALESSANDRA and Assunta de Rossi in "Hubog"



JACLYN Jose in "Tuhog"

the family together and work a humanizing effect on the baker, kneading his misanthropic soul into something open to understanding, kindness and grace. This is a beautiful, endearing movie that deserves an audience who can appreciate it for its small virtues and quiet good will. Aside from direction and screenplay (again by Reyes), the movie is nominated for actor (Ricky Davao and Carlo Aquino), actress (Jaclyn Jose), cinematography (Eduardo Jacinto), editing (Tara Illenberger) and production design (Jake de Asis).

"**Hubog.**" Like "La Vida" and "Westside," Joel Lamangan's movie may be taken as a dizzying experiment on melding the structural and the personal or perhaps, charting their clashes and counterpoints. In telling the story of a pair of sisters and their struggles to keep body and soul together during the Edsa

III riots, the movie is a dramatic tapestry of debased relationships, collapsing loyalties and shifting truths. Insistent and haywire, the movie's tension lingers in the mind long after the last credit rolls down. The title may titillate but it is a powerful allusion to our crumbling existence, our slide to chaos and formlessness. Aside from direction, the movie is also nominated for best actress (Assunta de Rossi), supporting actress (Alessandra de Rossi), supporting actor (Wendell Ramos and Jay Manalo), cinematography (Romulo Araojo), editing (Tara Illenberger), production design (Larry Matic), music (Jesse Lasaten) and sound (A.M. Idioma).

Other movies made 2001 the first step at redefining the contours of Philippine cinema. Lamangan's "Mila," about the struggles of a public school teacher after she is dropped from the service for joining a strike, is nominated for best actress (Maricel Soriano.) Gil Portez's war drama "Gatas," about the uneasy relationship between a Japanese Imperial officer and a Filipino woman who gives mother's milk to his motherless child, is also nominated for best actress (Mylene Dizon). Roño's war thriller "Yamashita, The Tiger's Treasure" is nominated for best supporting actor (Carlo Muñoz). Eric Matti's gangland thriller "Dos Elpis" is nominated for best actor (Mark Anthony Fernandez), cinematography (Jan Tadena), production design (Rodel Cruz), editing (Danilo Gloria) and music (Lourd de Veyra). Marilou Diaz-Abaya's take on the Muslim Mindanao conflict, "Bagong Buwan," is nominated for best actor (Cesar Montano), cinematography (Eduardo Jacinto) and sound (A.M. Idioma and Rudy Gonzales).

The 25th Gawad Urian will be at 6 p.m., May 11, at the Araneta Coliseum. Produced by APT Entertainment, the awards ceremonies will be broadcast live over Channel 9.

Summer music fest makes Pasig a concert destination

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

FOR FOUR weekends in the last two months during the mounting of the First Pasig Summer Music Festival, Pasig City emerged as an important concert destination not just for its residents but for the entire Metro Manila as well.

The festival enabled Pasig residents to rediscover their musical past and what they can still enjoy in the future. Moreover, they were able to hobnob with music personalities and the result was a fruitful musical interaction that made "bomb threats" a non-news in this part of the city.

For four weekends, they heard more than 40 musical compositions, heard 11 per-

forming artists and witnessed tributes to Maestro Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio.

They cheered the Piazzola's "Histoire du Tango" rendered by guitarist Chai Aquino and flutist GJ Herman Gomez. They were euphoric over Chopin's "Scherzo" rendered by Oliver Salonga. They literally screamed over clarinetist Girard Moses Villanueva in a performance of the Copland clarinet concerto. They were entranced by the voice of tenor Lemuel de la Cruz and there was total entertainment as baritone Marvin Gayramon sang and danced to Levi Celerio's "Kalesa."

Last week, the festival ended with Beethoven's "Emperor Concerto" and Tchaikovsky's "First Concerto" with pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Jonathan Arevalo Coo.

After Santamaria gave an encore (Chopin's "Ballade"), the audience gave the pianist a standing ovation.



JONATHAN Arevalo Coo

It was a highly discerning audience led by His Excellency German Ambassador Herbert Jess, Pasig Vice Mayor Lorna A. Bernardo, CCP president Nestor Jardin, CCP chair Baltazar Endriga and his wife.

Ms Richard Gomez, Lucy Torres, and her daughter gave the post-concert bouquet to Ms Santamaria.

Here and there

Former Philippine High School for the Arts cello scholar Victor Michael Coo recently performed in the Haydn C Major Cello Concert with the Columbia Orchestra. He will have a world tour with the same orchestra after his stint with the Indiana Summer Music Festival.

Music lovers of Negros will surely miss the Bacolod concert of Cecile Licad. The concert itinerary in Bacolod was cancelled by tour organizers because the head of a cultural organization continued to ignore fax and text messages for almost two months since the proposal was submitted. The officers and members of the Negros Piano Teachers Guild walked out on this cultural worker out of exasperation.

The national concert tour of Licad starts in Manila on June 17 with her engagement with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra (SMPO) as soloist in the Third

Rachmaninoff Piano Concerto under the baton of Rodel Colmenar. She will proceed to Cebu (June 19), Catanduanes (June 21), Davao City (June 26), Antipolo City (June 30) and Laoag City (July 2).

Meanwhile, the solo program of Licad consisting of two Schubert Impromptus, Liszt's Year of the Pilgrimage, the Liszt-Busoni Mephisto Waltz and Chopin's Twelve Etudes, Op. 25 was wildly received in New Jersey last week. The head of a music school in this city called it the best concert witnessed in the area in many years. For inquiries, call 643-7428.

The music event not to be missed during the week is the three-piano concert of pianists Jonathan Arevalo Coo, Najib Ismail and Mary Anne Espina at the Francisco Santiago Hall on May 11.

Tenor Gary del Rosario sang the role of Borsa in last weekend's

run of Verdi's "Rigoletto" mounted by the Cleveland Opera. His Cleveland opera credits now include the role of Tamino (Mozart's "Magic Flute"), Don Ramiro (Rossini's "La Cenerentola"), the role of the tenor student in the play "Master Class" and a debut with the Cleveland Symphony.

Tenor Lemuel de la Cruz, who was last heard at the CCP as Ruiz in the CCP-Singapore Lyric Opera production of "Il Trovatore," debuts in Catanduanes on May 17, in the Best of the Philippine Concert Tour, which will start in this Bicol province and culminate in the Licad tour in June. The venue is the Catanduanes Provincial Capitol grand lobby. The concert is presented by the provincial government of Catanduanes in association with Music News and Maram Pension House.